

IES TUESDAY APRIL 7  
CHANNEL 4  
Tough Guys in Society  
The Musical Elephant  
of the East  
12.00 News  
12.30 The 100th Anniversary  
of the First World War  
1.00 The 100th Anniversary  
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12.00 The 100th Anniversary  
of the First World War

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# THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION

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45p



Secret ballot: a queue of polling booths being brought out of storage yesterday ready for the electors of the London Borough of Southwark

## Labour's lead trimmed in final battle for floating vote

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

WITH 24 hours until voting starts in the general election the latest opinion poll shows that the Conservatives have reduced Labour's lead.

Last night's Harris poll for ITN measured party support at Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 38, Liberal Democrats 18 and others 4 per cent.

Although the findings give Labour a two-point lead, last week's poll put Neil Kin-

nock's party six points ahead. Then support was measured at Labour 41 per cent, Conservatives 35, Liberal Democrats 19 and others 5 per cent. The latest Harris figures, reproduced tomorrow on a uniform nationwide swing, would result in a hung parliament. Labour would take 319 seats, with the Tories on 290 and the Liberal Democrats on 14. However, such a calculation almost certainly understates the position of Paddy Ashdown's party. The Harris poll was carried out from Saturday to yesterday among a sample of 2,210 adults.

Another poll last night, by Mori for ITV's *First Tuesday* programme, measured support at Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 37, Liberal Democrats 20 and others 3 per cent.

With turnout likely to prove a key factor in such a tight contest, the ITV poll found that 87 per cent of Labour supporters said they were certain to vote, with 83 per cent for the Liberal Democrats

Campaign news, analysis and constituency profiles  
Pages 7-13

Lord St John and Woodrow Wyatt... 16  
Leading article and letters... 17

and 79 per cent for the Tories. However, 24 per cent of Liberal Democrat supporters said they might yet change their vote. So did a fifth of the Conservative supporters and 16 per cent of Labour backers. Mori interviewed 1,065 adults on Monday and yesterday.

The latest Scottish opinion survey, by ICM for *The Scotsman*, puts party support at Labour 41 per cent (unchanged from last week), Scottish National Party 25 (down 2 points), Conservatives 22 (unchanged), and Liberal Democrats 11 (up 2).

The ICM poll, conducted between Sunday and yesterday 7 among 1,056 people, shows a six-point drop to 31 per cent in those favouring Scottish independence while the number backing a devolved Scottish parliament is up eight points to 42 per cent. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats back the idea of a devolved parliament. The percentage favouring the Tory stance of no change in Westminster's control fell by one point to 24.

Mr Kinnoch, campaigning in the Midlands yesterday, repeated his prediction that Labour would win with an overall majority of 20 seats. John Major, also in the Midlands, said that the Tories would confound expectations and sweep back to power. "I know it is going to be all right - we are going to surprise people on Thursday night," he said.

Visiting an engineering factory in Tamworth, the prime minister said: "I think people are getting the message. There is one way to vote

for the Conservative party and that is to vote Conservative and two ways to vote for the Labour party, one by voting Labour and one by voting Liberal."

Mr Ashdown, buoyed up by the Liberal Democrats' surge in the opinion polls, last night accused the other parties of fighting visionless shabby campaigns. With the Liberal Democrats confident of sweeping successes in the West Country, Des Wilson, the party's campaign director, said he expected their share of the vote to increase. He said that the Liberal Democrats would gain more than the 22 seats the Alliance won in the 1987 election.

In their final efforts to attract floating voters, the Tories concentrated on what they saw as Labour's threat to economic recovery. Labour plumped for the health service and the Liberal Democrats emphasised the need to change Britain's whole system of government. Mr Major said at a London rally last night: "We are going to surprise people on Thursday night."

## Yeltsin sets fleet collision course

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday put Russia on direct collision course with Ukraine by signing a decree extending Russia's jurisdiction over the Black Sea fleet. His move came barely 48 hours after President Kravchuk, of Ukraine, had issued a decree declaring the fleet to be under his jurisdiction.

In a further sign of rising tension, aircraft from the disputed fleet, operating from an inland landing strip in the Crimean peninsula, were grounded by the Ukrainian air force, Russian television reported.

Announcing Mr Yeltsin's decree, Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov appealed to Russia and Ukraine not to allow passions of nationalism and great-power chauvinism to be ignited. The marshal, who became commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States when Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president and commander-in-chief of the Soviet army, conceded that the break-up of the four-million strong former Soviet army could not now be avoided.

His admission paves the way for him to become either defence minister or chief of staff of the Russian army. He pointedly emphasised that he was a Russian citizen and pledged his loyalty to Mr Yeltsin. The seeds of a solution to the Black Sea dispute may lie in the fact that, for the first time, both sides admit that the fleet, and the former Soviet army, must inevitably be divided.

Mr Yeltsin's decree authorises the Russian foreign ministry and the newly formed defence ministry to open talks with Ukraine with a view to rebasing some of the 300 ships and transferring

Continued on page 20, col 1

## ELECTION 92 WITH THE TIMES



After all the promises, pledges, bluster and blarney, the nation will tomorrow decide the battle for Number 10. As always, *The Times* is bringing all the news and views of the people and policies that matter, expert commentary and analysis - with a touch of humour to lighten the mix. Now, more than ever, it is time to keep our wits about you.

### TODAY

Constitutional conundrum:  
What if nobody wins?  
Lord St John of Fawsley  
looks at what the  
Queen can do Page 16



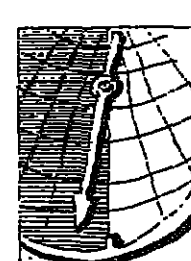
Plus Matthew Parris on  
the smiling silence of Neil  
Kinnock, the leader with a  
ring of confidence Page 7

### TOMORROW

The country decides: the last  
Mori poll of the campaign  
plus an eight-page  
supplement with full colour  
constituency map and all  
you need to know about  
the seats, the candidates  
and their chances to guide  
you through the longest  
night of the year

### FRIDAY

In the swing: As votes are  
counted in the 651  
constituencies, we'll be  
there to bring you the  
full results service  
complete with details of  
the swings, as well as all  
the drama, tears and  
laughter as winners  
and losers learn their fate



### SATURDAY

Day of reckoning: How safe are the leaders? Can  
Smith or Heseltine mount a challenge? Who will  
be in the new cabinet? What will be in the  
Queen's speech? For all the results and  
ramifications, don't miss the 16-page  
supplement in our bumper paper on Saturday  
when our unrivalled news and leisure service will  
be combined with a 12-page special to mark the  
350th anniversary of the civil war.  
A vital issue for the vital issues

## Pit bulls rip off ear

Surgeons spent four hours  
sewing a man's ear back on  
after he was savaged by a  
pair of pit bull terriers that  
escaped from a garage after  
tearing their way through  
an inch thick wooden door.  
The dogs, which pulled the  
man to the ground and bit  
his leg, were shot by a  
policeman. Page 3

## Souness rests

Graeme Souness, the Liver-  
pool football manager, un-  
derwent a successful triple  
heart by-pass operation at  
the Alexandra hospital in  
Cheadle, where he was said  
to be resting comfortably.  
Football, page 32

## Miners safe

Eight miners who were  
trapped in a "super pit" for  
15 hours by a roof fall  
emerged safely after rescu-  
ers dug through five metres  
of rock. British Coal and  
government inspectors are  
investigating what caused  
the cave-in. Page 2

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Law Report	10
Science	6
TV & radio	12
Women	4,5

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 11 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section

## Clinton leads in New York

FROM PETER STOTHARD IN NEW YORK AND JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

EARLY exit polls showed Bill Clinton, the leading Democratic presidential challenger, ahead in the New York. Wisconsin and Kansas primaries last night. But Paul Tsongas, whose name was on the ballots even though he did not campaign, scored heavily among Jewish voters in New York. Pollsters predicted that with black votes following the Rev Jesse Jackson's lead into the Jerry Brown camp, the result could be close.

The New York primary could prove to be the make-or-break campaign for Mr Clinton's attempt to secure the Democratic presidential nomination. In a last-minute appeal to voters, the Arkansas

governor asked for their support and launched another attack on Mr Brown.

Mr Clinton called on his rival to apologise for comparing Arkansas to South Africa when speaking yesterday in a New York black neighbourhood. "It was one of the more gutless things I've ever seen a politician do," Mr Clinton said. "I think that is something he will have to answer for."

Mr Clinton's aides expressed cautious optimism that he would win Wisconsin. A newspaper poll yesterday also suggested that he would win Wisconsin. Mr Clinton is hoping for a big turnout in New York. A

poor turnout could throw the election Mr Brown's way, according to pollsters.

A poll by the New York-based Sawyer Mill Group yesterday suggested that Mr Clinton was in the lead in New York. The survey gave Mr Clinton 38 per cent of the vote, with Mr Brown a close second with 32 per cent.

The poll also found that most of those backing Mr Brown were doing so merely to protest against the Arkansas governor. Mr Brown, the former California governor, has exploited widespread

Continued on page 20, col 7

## Tesco fights banks over charges

TESCO yesterday accused Britain's banks of behaving "disgracefully" over their decision to increase charges for handling direct debit cards and credit card transactions. It said large retailers were preparing to confront the banks on the issue.

The supermarket group, which announced a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £546 million, said direct debit card transaction charges had, in some cases, trebled on April 1. But the banks say the increases are reasonable.

Banking on New York, p14  
Peter Stothard, page 16

Tesco attack, page 21  
Tempos page 22

Path to reform, page 15

## Confusion becomes the Bafta prime suspect

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE controversy over allegations of vote-rigging at television's Bafta awards deepened last night when four of seven judges in the best drama series category signed a public statement denying that they had voted for the winner, Granada's *Prime Suspect*.

The four insisted that they had voted for Alan Bleasdale's political drama *GBH*, shown on Channel 4, and issued a statement saying that they were dissatisfied with an internal enquiry conducted on Monday night at a two-hour Bafta council meeting.

Hours before their statement, Richard Price, Bafta chairman, had officially declared the dispute "closed" and confirmed that the award to *Prime Suspect* would stand. He said that votes had been tallied in accordance with normal procedure, before being verified by Tony

Byrne, Bafta's director. There had been no irregularities, he said.

The four judges said: "As far as we are concerned, the matter is not closed." They criticised Bafta for not including them in its investigation, and called for an immediate meeting with Mr Byrne.

The four - Ross Devens, a South African film director, Louis Marks, a producer, David Reid, a scriptwriter, and Archie Tait, head of development for Zenith Productions - said that they found the award to *Prime Suspect* two weeks ago "inexplicable". "We recognise *Prime Suspect* as a very fine piece of television drama. We fear, however, we must make it clear that, in an undecided ballot, on a jury of seven, our votes were cast for *GBH*," they said.

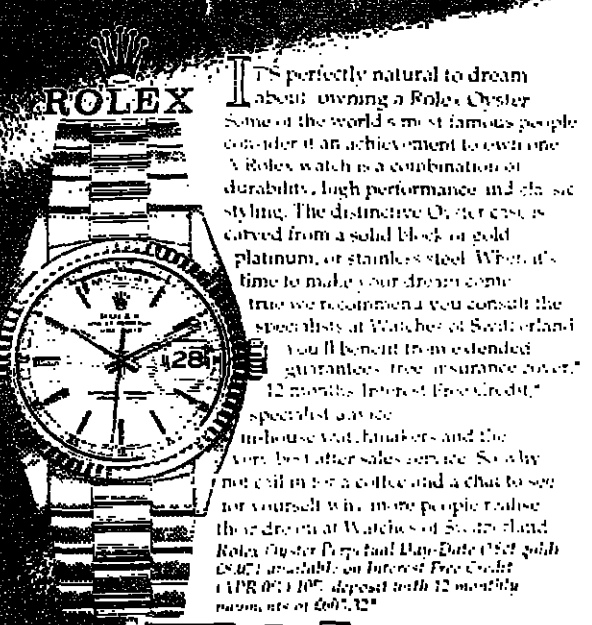
Mr Byrne said that the secret ballot papers given to him by Irene Shubik, chairman of the jury, showed four votes for *Prime Suspect* and three for *GBH*. Ms Shubik, as chairman, did not vote.

The four judges asked yesterday to see their secret ballot papers to clarify the discrepancy, but Mr Byrne said that they have been destroyed. Ms Shubik has refused to comment.

The judges said that they had been led to believe during a telephone conversation with Mr Byrne on March 25, three days after the awards ceremony, that the ballot papers were still in existence. Mr Byrne insisted that "before this matter arose". He said that he would be happy to meet the four.

On Friday, Mr Bleasdale said: "I don't mind losing in a fair contest. But I can't accept it if cheating was involved." *GBH* won the best drama category at last week's Broadcasting Press Guild awards. Lynda La Plante, the writer of *Prime Suspect*, said: "Winning the [Bafta] award was the most important moment of my career. But if it is wrong, we should go for another vote."

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# Thinning ozone layer over Europe alarms climate scientists



Tolba: CFCs a threat

SCIENTISTS expressed alarm yesterday over new figures showing that the ozone layer over the Northern Hemisphere is thinner than ever before. Had the winter been longer or colder an ozone hole might have appeared like the one over the Antarctic, exposing northern Europe and North America to increased risks of skin cancer and blindness.

"We're running out of time," said Neil Harris, of the European Ozone Secretariat in Cambridge, announcing the figures of ozone loss gathered by the 17-nation European Arctic Stratospheric Ozone Experiment. Joe Farman, the British scientist who first identified the ozone hole over Antarctica, said: "It confirms that we are taking risks with the environment." He urged governments to speed up the phasing-out of ozone-

destroying chemicals such as the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in refrigerators.

Mustafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (Unep), formally proposed that the ban on CFCs agreed under the Montreal Protocol should be advanced by four years to the beginning of 1996. Britain, the US and the EC have already agreed to the earlier deadline. Dr Harris said people should avoid the midday sun, but that he was more alarmed by the implications for the world's climate and for plant and marine life, neither of which can cope well with increased ultra-violet radiation.

The experiment data, expected to be confirmed by satellite information gathered by the US space agency Nasa, show that the ozone layer was on average about 15 per

## Another hole in the ozone layer would expose northern Europe and North America to increased cancer risks, Nigel Hawkes writes

cent thinner over the winter months than expected. Many monitoring stations reported their lowest-ever measurements, including a 10 per cent drop in Hohenpeissenberg, Germany, in December, and an 18 per cent drop in Uccle, Belgium, in January, compared with long-term averages.

Dr Rod Jones of Cambridge University's chemistry department, one of the scientists responsible, said: "The really worrying thing is that these figures show that we had the potential to have an ozone hole. In fact, one did not occur, but these warning signals mean that in another year we

could face a very serious situation." An ozone hole would increase the amount of ultra-violet light reaching the surface of the Earth, with damaging effects on crops and an increase in skin cancer and cataracts.

Three factors have been identified as contributing to the low ozone readings. High levels of chlorine compounds, derived from CFCs, were observed in January and February. In addition, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines had multiplied the amount of aerosol particles tenfold, mopping up the nitrogen oxides that would otherwise have inhibited the destruction of ozone

by the chlorine compounds. Finally, there were anomalous wind and weather patterns which, even on their own, might have led to ozone loss. Together, the three factors produced record low values, at many sites.

During January, ozone was falling at a rate of 1 per cent a day. Low temperatures are necessary for ozone destruction, so in a longer or colder winter the levels might have been lower still. The worst months are now past, but fresh observations are to be mounted next winter.

The experiment team concludes: "The measurements this winter indicated the potential of the chlorine already in the stratosphere to cause large ozone loss. With the inevitability of increased ozone loading during the rest of this decade and the possibility in

other years of lower temperatures later in the winter, this potential for ozone destruction could be realised in the future."

Unep has estimated that a sustained loss of 10 per cent of the ozone would lead to between 1.6 and 1.75 million extra cataracts worldwide every year, and a 26 per cent increase in skin cancer. Speeding up the ban on CFCs would, they said, prevent 4.5 million additional cases of skin cancer and 350,000 cases of blindness.

Fiona Weir of Friends of the Earth said leading governments must take far more effective action to prevent further releases of damaging chemicals. "If the world's richest countries do not show leadership on this issue, the ozone crisis will turn into a disaster. The cost of complacency is already far too high."

## Engineers begin enquiry into cave-in after rescuers dig tunnel through five metres of fallen rock

### Trapped miners led to safety after 15 hours underground

By PAUL WILKINSON

EIGHT mineworkers trapped underground for 15 hours were led to safety yesterday. Engineers later moved into the pit, at Stillingfleet, North Yorkshire, to begin a search for the cause of the cave-in that trapped them.

A team from the mine's inspectorate of the government's Health and Safety Executive, with representatives from British Coal and the miners' unions moved into the underground roadway where the fall occurred, a mile from the pithead bottom. Their report is expected in about a month.

The rescue from one of Britain's most modern pits shortly after 8.00am yesterday had relied on the old mining techniques of pick, shovel and sweat. At one stage, rescue workers stripped to the waist in rising temperatures, struggling in a gap less than 3ft high and 18 inches wide.

British Coal had expected to release the men soon after a 50-metre section of the roof fell in at 4.45pm on Monday. But efforts to reach them were stalled for almost eight hours during the night by a huge boulder and twisted steel pit props blocking the last two metres.

The rescuers could not use

cutting gear for fear of fire. Instead they used their hands and picks and shovels, filling buckets with soil which were passed out along a human chain. They had to endure dust-laden air and poor ventilation caused by the awkward conditions.

For the last six hours, they were working one man at a time for ten-minute intervals in the tiny cavity. One British Coal official described it as "a very gritty Turkish bath".

Rescue seemed near in the early hours of the morning when the trapped men managed to pull the boulder clear but, as they did so, more debris from the roof poured into the gap, blocking their escape. Eventually, just after 8.00am, the hole was big enough again for them to crawl clear.

The men — six miners, an engineer and a deputy supervisor — had been opening up a new coal face when the 12ft-high roof gave way without warning. The men were about 500m away, working at the blind end of the tunnel.

Although debris littered a large area of the roadway, only about five metres were completely blocked.

The men, who were uninjured, used radios to summon help and hacked open a com-

pressed air line, used to power cutting equipment, to provide some ventilation.

Within an hour, the rescuers had poked a hole through to them, but difficulties with huge pieces of debris made it difficult to enlarge. The men sang to keep up their spirits and helped to speed up their release by attacking the rock from their side.

By mid-evening the rescuers had enlarged the gap so that they could shake hands with the trapped men and pass through their first food for several hours: beef and turkey sandwiches and cartons of orange juice.

It was at that point that hopes rose for an early release, but then the rescuers encountered the giant boulder blocking their path.

At first, they tried to burrow beneath it and then over the top. For several hours, the escape tunnel made no forward progress and the trapped miners were ordered to switch off all but one of their helmet lights to conserve power.

Eventually, the path was cleared and the eight were given medical checks at the scene by a doctor and nurse who had gone down with the rescue team.

On the surface, they had showers and downed several cans of lager to wash away the dirt inside before going straight home to their families and beds.

Ken Capstick, vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers in Yorkshire, said that it had been a magnificent effort by the rescue team, and the trapped men were in good spirits. They were fit and well, although extremely tired.

Alan Houghton, British Coal's area director, said that the rescue had been difficult and dangerous and carried out under the most awkward of circumstances.



All-night effort: union leader Ken Capstick, right, leaving the pit with one of the rescuers yesterday

## Human costs cast shadow on future

British Coal's safety record is high but the mining industry remains a hazardous one. David Young reports chilling statistics

THE rescue of the eight trapped miners in the Selby coalfield highlights the advances in pit safety and underground rescue techniques over the past decade.

It also shows that the cost of coal can be tragically high. Many within the industry were also saying yesterday that it is a cost which makes the industry unattractive for privatisation.

The rescue operation involved men from the area Mines Rescue Service, all coal-face workers who have undergone intensive training in first aid and the use of breathing apparatus and cutting and lifting equipment.

British Coal is proud of the progress it has made in pit

safety over the past few years and says that coal mining is now less hazardous than at any time. Before nationalisation an average of 2,000 lives a year were lost in coal-mining. In 1947, the first year of nationalised coal, 618 men were killed in pit accidents.

Last year there were 12 coalfield deaths but according to Health and Safety Executive figures, in terms of serious and fatal injuries per 1,000 workers, mining is still Britain's most hazardous occupation. There are more deaths and injuries in the

construction industry, but in proportion to numbers involved coal mining still has more deaths and serious injuries than any other industry.

The annual rate per 1,000 workers in all industries is 0.9. In mining it is 8.4. Construction has 2.89 fatal and major injuries per 1,000 workers; agriculture 1.6; energy 2.4; forestry 2.8; and the chemical industry 1.57.

The executive's figures disclose that the proportion of death and major injuries per 1,000 workers within British Coal is rising. Figures since

the miners' strike of 1984-85 show that the proportion rose from 7.7 in 1986-87 to 8.4 in 1990-91. In 1989-1990 there were 19 deaths in the industry, including those in licensed private pits. Last year there were 12.

That reduction in the death rate, British Coal insists, is a true reflection of the fact that the industry is becoming safer. The company says the number of people involved in serious accidents has dropped from a high of 982 in 1986-87 to 510 last year.

The unions oppose changes being made in working hours agreements, which they say are to prepare the industry for privatisation but which are affecting safety.

## Soccer riot case will go ahead

The case against 19 Manchester United supporters facing riot charges will be pursued, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday.

A trial appeared to be in doubt after the High Court ruled on Monday that the prosecution could not appeal against a judge's refusal to allow police to give evidence from behind screens. Greater Manchester Police said that the trial might collapse if undercover officers who infiltrated an alleged group of soccer hooligans were not allowed to protect their identities while giving evidence.

But the CPS said it intended to pursue the case and will ask for it to be listed as soon as possible. It is believed the prosecution can make a fresh application to the trial judge for the officers to be screened from view. The 19 defendants face charges including conspiracy to riot, riot and causing violent disorder.

## Teenaged gang robs post office

Three masked teenagers who robbed a post office yesterday included a boy aged 13 or 14 and a girl, police said. The gang escaped with a "substantial sum" from the post office in Easton, Bristol.

There were two staff members but no customers in the shop during the morning raid. One of the gang is thought to have had a weapon hidden in a plastic bag. He used it to smash a hole in a security screen before demanding cash. The money was pushed through the hole

## Activists admit Becher's attack

Animal rights activists claimed responsibility yesterday for an arson attack that destroyed Becher's Brook, the most formidable fence on the Grand National course.

The fire occurred on Sunday night as security at Aintree wound down after the race on Saturday. Robin Webb, of the Animal Liberation Front, said the claim was made by a woman who telephoned his home. "I would imagine Becher's Brook was chosen as the most infamous of the jumps which has caused the suffering of many horses," he said.

## Player cleared

A rugby player was yesterday cleared of fracturing an opponent's skull during a match. The case at Leeds Crown Court against Kevin Carr, the Upper Wharfedale lock forward, was halted after two team-mates said another player had hit Keith Astbury, the Wetherby prop forward. Recorder Benjamin Nolan ordered a police inquiry into allegations of a cover-up into how Mr Astbury was injured.

## Back on the air

Radio Caroline, the former pirate station, was legally back on air yesterday after winning a four-week community radio licence. The station on the Ross Revenge, berthed in Dover harbour, Kent, burst into life at midnight. Its output can be heard in Dover and surrounding areas. The pirate station operated for 27 years before being silenced in April last year by the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

## £10,000 reward

The Post Office is offering a £10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of two armed raiders who fired a shotgun at a screen during a raid on a post office in Shorelitch High Street, east London, yesterday hitting a woman employee with glass and pellets. The two men took an undisclosed sum of money. The woman, thought to be in her twenties, was taken to hospital.

## BR denies plan for closures

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail yesterday dismissed claims by rail union officials that large sections of the network would have to be shut if the industry were privatised under a new Conservative government.

Loss-making lines in England and Wales would be closed and more than a dozen InterCity services demoted to regional status, union officials said. The cuts would mean the closure of about 255 stations and the loss of 30,000 jobs, they added.

The threatened lines were said to include those between Exeter and Barnstaple and between Newquay and Par in the South-West, Lowestoft and Ipswich and Norwich and Sheringham, in East Anglia, and between Shrewsbury and Dovey junction and between Aberystwyth and Pwllheli, in North Wales. The InterCity lines named included those between London and Norwich, Colchester and Ipswich, and Leeds and Bradford, officials said.

Jimmy Knapp, the rail union chief, said that the "spectre of Beching" had returned. Rail officials insisted that the documents purporting to show a BR privatisation list were full of errors and had no official status.

## ITV licensees fail to agree new scheduling system

NEW Channel 3 licensees failed yesterday to reach agreement on arrangements for the commissioning and scheduling of networked programmes after last-minute wrangling over programme pricing and the size of each company's contribution to the annual £500 million network budget.

The Independent Television Commission had planned to publish details of the new system yesterday, but was forced to call off its press conference after the ITV companies failed to agree the final terms of the new network supply contract and programme licence.

"We just aren't ready, but not because there have been any major disagreements. There are just some niggly little points that need sorting," David Shaw, the ITV Association chairman, said. "The documents are so damn complex they need careful legal scrutiny. We are not dragging our heels at all," he said.

Originally the new central scheduling system, which will end the ITV programme supply cartel next year by allowing Britain's 900 independent producers to compete directly with the broadcasters, was meant to be agreed and approved by the ITC on January 31.

Although the principles of

ITV's ratings lead over BBC1 could be jeopardised by programming delays, writes Melinda Wittstock

the new system were agreed with the ITC two weeks ago, the ITV Association said yesterday that the new system will not now be in place until late this month or early May.

Only then will the companies be able to begin to choose the executives who will ultimately decide what programmes appear on the ITV network.

ITV said it was no longer looking for a "super-scheduler", opting instead to split the important job between two executives after two candidates best suited to the job. Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, and Greg Dyke, LWT's chief executive, turned it down. The companies plan to hire a chief executive to administer commissioning and scheduling and a programme director to handle day-to-day scheduling. They would be joined by a team of commissioning editors.

Those now being considered for the central scheduling jobs include Paul Bonner, the ITVA's programme plan-

ner, and directors of programming at a number of ITV companies, including LWT's Marcus Plantin, Yorkshire's John Fairley and Central's Andy Allan.

From May, the Office of Fair Trading will have six months to ensure the new arrangements are fair and competitive.

Programme-makers yesterday said they feared the delay could be detrimental to the network, as it would again postpone commissioning for ITV's autumn 1993 schedule. That could jeopardise ITV's ratings lead over BBC1. However, the new licensees already have interim arrangements in place for the first nine months of next year.

Disagreements persist as to how much the big nine independent television companies should subsidise the smallest six. It has not yet been decided how much of a discount the smaller companies should get on networked programmes.

It is understood there is still some haggling over how much each of the larger companies should contribute to the overall network budget. At the time of last October's widely criticised blind-bid auction, it was feared that the wide gap between cash bids — from Central's £2,000 to Yorkshire's £37.7 million — would inhibit agreement.

## Detector sniffs out Semtex

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A CHEAP, portable bomb detector that can detect a range of explosives, including Semtex, one of the most difficult to identify, has been developed by a British firm.

At the heart of the Viper device, which weighs less than 40lbs, is a unit that sweeps high volumes of air through to a filter where explosive chemicals are trapped. The design means that 60 times more air is swept through than conventional detectors. Richard Wheelton, of the Cambridge company AI, which developed the device, said:

"The filter is fitted to another part of the unit where trapped chemicals are analysed giving a read-out in seconds. The high volume of air swept through means that even the low pressure chemicals given off by a 300 to 500 gramme Semtex bomb can be detected if the explosive is in non-hermetically sealed bags."

Mr Wheelton said that Viper, which will be launched in Britain and America next month, will cost about £15,000. Bigger conventional devices cost between £100,000 and several million pounds.

## Hotel puts price on ultimate break

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER happens tomorrow, the Gleneagles hotel fully expects to clean up as the seriously rich either drown their sorrows or celebrate in style with Britain's most expensive package holiday.

The luxurious Scottish hotel yesterday launched its "Heaven Can Wait" five-day package costing £4,625 a head and will have staff waiting by the telephone for the expected flood of post-election bookings.

Neil Woodcock, the hotel's marketing director, said: "Despite the recession, there are still people who can afford to pay a realistic price for a five-day break."

"They want to do something which they know will take all the hassle out of what will probably be the only break they will have for some time and one which they can calculate the cost precisely well in advance."

For the £4,625, guests will have to make their own way to either Edinburgh or Glasgow airport to be met there by the hotel's Rolls-Royce for the journey to Gleneagles. They can use any of the sporting and leisure facilities, including golf, clay pigeon shooting and horse riding.

A private helicopter tour of Scotland is included,

with a presentation bottle of whisky with the client's name on the label, afternoon tea with Lady Mansfield at Stone Palace and four nights in the hotel's best suite, the Royal Lochanagar. The price covers all food and drink, including a picnic in a remote but picturesque spot.

Mr Woodcock has offered the holidays for sale in America and although no takers have yet signed up he is confident that the handful of people who are prepared to pay for a really individual travel experience will come.

The Lochanagar suite is being reserved for the rest of the year for the "heaven can wait" holidaymakers, many of whom are expected to come from Britain.

For those not quite as ready to splash out the best part of £10,000 for two, however, the travel trade has dozens of offers open which they expect to sell quickly after the election.

Rosemary Astles, marketing director of Thomson Holidays, said pre-election sales were down at least 30 per cent down but once the uncertainty was ended "we fully expect to see sales up by as much as 50 per cent, provided there is no hung parliament, which will only add to the uncertainty".



## Pit bull terriers rip off man's ear after escape from garage

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO pit bull terriers broke loose from a garage and ripped off an ear from a man who was passing by. The dogs attacked Mr Daszczuk, aged 40, who was visiting his girlfriend's flat, when he went to see what was causing the noise. Mr Daszczuk, a communications consultant from Kensington, west London, was taken to Mount Vernon hospital near Rickmansworth for emergency treatment. His severed right ear was found at the scene by police and taken to the hospital. In four hours of micro surgery, surgeons sewed back the ear. It will be five days before they know if it has been saved.

Mr Daszczuk said last night: "When I heard the dogs barking I went to the garage where they were kept. I was curious to see what was going on because of the racket. The next thing I knew, my whole leg was dragged in under the door and they pulled off one of my trainers. They had broken through the bottom of the door and were about to escape."

Mr Daszczuk said that he ran to a neighbour round the corner who refused to let him in but telephoned the police. As Mr Daszczuk made his way back to the flat the dogs ran down an alleyway towards him. "One of them jumped up and bit off my ear then they pulled me to the ground." He said one of the dogs was about a year old and the other was fully grown. "I wasn't really frightened and I couldn't feel any pain. I thought if I kept punching their snouts, they might go away. I was wearing a big overcoat which probably saved me from even worse injuries."

"I couldn't believe what was happening. I've got a chunk of calf missing. One of them chewed it off and swallowed it and I'm covered in gashes where they bit into me. There are big gaps of flesh in my skin."

Theresa Brown, aged 21, whose house overlooks the garage, said police beat at the dogs with truncheons but they would not let go of their victim. "They had to drive the car right up to the dog with their lights and sirens on." She said the dogs were shot from about 15 yards away. Superintendent Keith Trowbridge said that a police marksman fired six shots from an automatic rifle into the animals.

Mr Trowbridge said of the bull terriers: "If they are guard dogs they must either have a handler or be tethered. We believed these dogs are registered."

A three-man team led by consultant plastic surgeon David Gault performed the operation on Mr Daszczuk. Stephen Levers, the director of operational services, said that Mr Daszczuk also had lacerations to his left ear and the left side of his face, wounds on both arms, his chest, left and right calves and the right leg. He was also suffering from acute shock. "His wounds are horrific and numerous micro stitches were needed to fix them, but he is not in any danger now."

He said Mr Daszczuk would probably be released in a week's time. Asked if he would be scarred for life, Mr Levers replied: "I leave you to draw your own conclusions."

## Register holds 6,500 animals

THE Dangerous Dogs Act, brought in last year in response to public concern at the risks from pit bull terriers and other fighting dogs, has resulted in 6,500 animals being registered. These dogs have met requirements including neutering, marking with a microchip and identifying tattoo, and having third party insurance cover.

The number of pit bulls is unknown but when the act was introduced 8,200 dogs were notified to index keepers. The Home Office believes 1,000 dogs have been put down or exported. As work on the index is completed, local police will be told of 700 dogs outstanding and begin checks on owners.

The act creates a number of criminal offences surrounding the animals, which must be muzzled in public and be

in the control of someone over 16. Owners must also ensure dogs do not stray and police may seize animals and seek a court order to destroy them.

Ownership of an unregistered animal can bring a maximum penalty of £2,000 and/or six months in jail. If a dog is dangerously out of control in public similar penalties are available to the courts.

In London, the index was notified of 1,984 animals. Inspector Mark Matthews, who is monitoring the act for Scotland Yard, said that 55 animals, mainly pit bulls, have been put down on court orders and another 100 destroyed after being surrendered to police. He said that most dangerous dogs police were being asked to deal with under the act were not pit bulls and the breed was being seen less often in public.



The victim: Mr Daszczuk in hospital yesterday



Battle ends: Joy Court, whose campaign changed police selection policy

## Police pay for barring woman from CID job

BY CRAIG SETON

A WOMAN police officer has won substantial compensation for sex discrimination from Derbyshire police and an apology from her chief constable after proving that her attempts to become a detective were blocked by a quota system operated within the force's criminal investigation department.

WPC Joy Court, aged 36, tried for five years to win a transfer to the CID, where her husband works, but was rejected. She became a detective last year but continued an action for sex discrimination.

The Police Federation, which took up her case, said yesterday that she had been awarded a substantial four-figure sum in a settlement with the force negotiated by Acas, the arbitration service.

John Newing, chief constable of Derbyshire, yesterday said that the force was reviewing its policy over CID attachments to ensure that there was no further discrimination. He said: "Senior management of the

force took the view that there was statistical evidence to show a quota system was in operation within the CID and that PC Court had been disadvantaged."

"People within the force have to appreciate that equal opportunities policies mean just that. In the future, people will be selected for posts on merit, regardless of gender or race."

Geoffrey Towle, secretary of the Derbyshire branch of the Police Federation, said yesterday that an unofficial quota system had operated within the CID to restrict the number of women detectives. No more than two women were allowed to work on any sub division. "This was an unwritten system. There was nothing in the force's policy to allow it to happen. It was openly talked about in CID but the problem was, nobody was prepared to address it. Women were not being judged equally with men."

Mr Towle said senior officers within the CID "were content to operate this system and it was allowed to continue". The police service was male-dominated and there were difficulties for women.

WPC Court, an officer for 17 years, is now a detective in the Full Street station in Derby. She and her husband have no children.

Last year, the number of officers in the Derbyshire force was about 1,770, of which 177 were women. There are 212 male detectives and 33 women. The Metropolitan police said yesterday that it had an equal opportunities policy. Of its 28,000 officers, 3,734 were women and its CID had 3,817 male and 277 female officers.

A recent police conference on equal opportunities heard other evidence of discrimination against women in the police. A female officer wanting to join a motorcycle course was told she first had to prove she could lift a heavily loaded 1,000cc machine left lying on its side, although no male officers had to pass the test.

## Employers fear schools neglect literacy skills

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS believe that standards of literacy and numeracy, the basic educational skills they most value, are slipping because schools are devoting too much attention to computing and word processing.

Almost two-thirds of the 227 companies surveyed last month by academics at Kingston Polytechnic reported that these skills had declined over the past five years. Communication skills had also worsened among school leavers recruited by the firms.

Although the same proportion had noted an improvement in computing skills, most employers provided their own training tailored to particular systems. Increased competence in typing and word processing also left employers largely unimpressed.

Many firms were so concerned about their young employees' literacy and numeracy that they were offering remedial classes. However, Nick Turner and Steve Smith, who did the research for the Alfred Marks employment agency, calculated that communication and team skills were in most demand.

Their report, *Britain's Education*, says: "The traditionalists' call for a straightforward refocusing of teachers' efforts on the basics does not appear to be what business is asking for." Only literacy came out ahead of communication skills in the employers' scale of priorities.

Dr Smith said yesterday: "The evidence suggests that business is extremely dissatisfied with a whole series of skills, although people always look at the past through rose-tinted spectacles. Schools seem to have responded to a demand for better skills in information technology only to find that employers' priorities have shifted."

More than half the firms said that school leavers were badly prepared for work, failing to adapt to an office regime and considering their outside activities more important.

Employers' Views: Changing attitudes towards school and college leavers over the past five years. The chart shows a decline in literacy and numeracy skills, while computing and word processing skills have improved.

Mr Osman, aged 60, a millionaire barrister, is fighting extradition to Hong Kong on £452 million fraud charges, which he denies. He says that he fears he will not get a fair trial in the colony. He has applied seven times on various grounds for a writ of habeas corpus but on each occasion has failed.

"Following the result of the general election, I will take up this case with the home secretary," Mr Williams said.

## QC pledges to contest extradition

The chairman of the Bar Council pledged yesterday to refer the case of Britain's longest-serving extradition prisoner to the home secretary immediately after the election.

Gareth Williams, QC, joined more than 60 candidates of all parties to highlight the plight of Lorrain Osman, in his seventh year at Brixton prison, south London.

Mr Osman, aged 60, a millionaire barrister, is fighting extradition to Hong Kong on £452 million fraud charges, which he denies. He says that he fears he will not get a fair trial in the colony. He has applied seven times on various grounds for a writ of habeas corpus but on each occasion has failed.

"Following the result of the general election, I will take up this case with the home secretary," Mr Williams said.

## Girl injured at car race dies

A girl aged nine died yesterday three days after being hit by a wheel at a stock car race meeting. Charlene Kingston, of Coates, Cambridgeshire, had been watching the racing at Wisbech when her father, when a wheel flew off a car and bounced over safety barriers into the crowd. She suffered severe head injuries. The wheel is believed to have come free when a car axle snapped.

Police and local environmental health officers are investigating the incident, which happened on Saturday night.

## Tamil ends fast

A Tamil prisoner was recovering in hospital yesterday after ending a 55-day hunger strike in protest at his murder conviction. Sam Kulasingham, 35, abandoned his strike after Kenneth Baker agreed at the weekend to a full investigation of his case. Mr Kulasingham was convicted four years ago after a firebomb attack on a house in east London in which three other men died.

## Body in house

A couple viewing a house in Chatham, Kent, which they were about to buy, found the body of a young man hanging from the rafters in the loft. The dead man was named as James Lennox, aged 22. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death. A spokesman for Harrisons, the estate agents, said that the couple had pulled out of the house purchase.

## Boy spotted

Kerry Needham of Sheffield was told yesterday that her son Ben, feared dead on a Greek island, is alive. The fair-haired two-year-old, missing for six months, was seen with two women by Greek police on the island of Kefalonia, not far from the holiday island of Kos where Ben disappeared while playing. Police are now treating the disappearance as a kidnapping inquiry.

## Minerals extractors look north

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENTALISTS said yesterday that increasing numbers of sites in Scotland could be turned over to minerals extraction as quarrying companies seek less politically sensitive locations north of the border.

The warning, issued on the day that a public enquiry opened in Frome, Somerset, into plans to extend Whitley quarry in the east Mendips Hills, follows a series of recent proposals and planning applications for sites, mainly in western Scotland, for vast "super" quarries.

Groups such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Friends of the Earth Scotland, believe these Scottish proposals signal an attempt by companies which extract gravel, rock, limestone and other construction minerals to transfer operations to remote areas as opposition grows to their operations south of the border. Local and national campaigns have been launched against planning applications after recent forecasts indicating a 66 per cent rise in minerals demand between now and 2011.

"It is going to become harder and harder for the companies to get planning permission in England and Wales and they appear to be seeing their sights on more remote localities in Scotland," said Ben Plowden, CPRE's minerals campaigner.

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## Asthma enquiry to study role of drugs Hospital cases treble in ten years

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A BIG enquiry into the high rate of asthma deaths is to consider whether modern drug treatments are making the disease worse and increasing the risks for sufferers.

The enquiry, launched yesterday by the National Asthma Campaign's UK task force, will try to explain why the disease appears to be getting worse when effective drug treatments are more widely available and used.

Hospital admissions for asthma have trebled in the past ten years and risen five-fold among young children. The annual death rate from the disease rose to a peak of 2,000 in 1988 since when it has fallen only slightly. Failure to reduce the rate was serious, if not scandalous,

Donald Lane, chairman of the task force, said.

Treatments for asthma, which affects two to three million people, have doubled in the past ten years. The enquiry will consider if the disease is increasing or becoming more severe, whether drugs to treat it may be dangerous and whether some people are not getting the treatment they need.

Evidence from abroad suggests there has been a worldwide increase in atopic disease (hypersensitivity) including hay fever and eczema as well as asthma, according to Peter Burney, reader in public health at St Thomas's hospital, London. Asthma is worse in the north, west and southwest of Britain. In developing countries it is common in the towns but almost unknown in rural areas. The reasons are unclear but Dr Burney said that pollution was unlikely to be a factor. "Pollution has got worse since the 1950s, not worse," he said. There is still doubt as to how much of the increase is due to doctors being readier to diagnose wheezy patients as asthmatic.

Researchers will examine all deaths from asthma in East Anglia, the West Midlands, Wessex, Scotland and Wales. Details will be collected from doctors and relatives on the circumstances of the death, the treatment received and the severity of the illness. The enquiry will also examine the safety of the asthma drugs

and consider deficiencies in treatment.

Heart disease causes 12 million premature deaths every year and is spreading from the rich countries to the poorer ones, the World Health Organisation said yesterday in a report marking World Health Day.

Six million deaths, half the world total, now occur in developing countries, and in the next decade heart disease will overtake infectious diseases as a cause of death in these countries, WHO said. The totals amounted to a world-class coronary catastrophe, the Geneva-based agency said. The report said that half of deaths from coronaries and strokes could be prevented by more healthy living.

## Developer had listed chapel blown up

BY RICHARD DUCE

A PROPERTY developer hired a quarryman for £7,000 to damage a 19th century listed chapel with explosives after he was refused planning consent to replace the building with flats, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Denega, aged 42, of Torquay, Devon, had intended Steven Mann simply to widen cracks in the facade of the Methodist chapel at Darmouth, Devon, but the gelignite charge was so strong that it led to a security alert.

Mr Denega, of Ilington, Devon, planned that the explosion, in February last year, would enlarge existing cracks and lead to consent for the chapel's demolition. Plymouth crown court was told.

Andrew Chubb, for the prosecution, said: "The effect of the explosion far exceeded what they intended and the facade was destroyed."

The court was told that Mr Denega had bought the chapel from South Hams council in 1988 and soon after was refused listed building consent to demolish it and develop 21 sheltered housing units. He won an appeal to the environment department, on condition that the original facade, with its four Ionic columns, was retained.

Mr Mann admitted executing the demolition and Denega admitted causing work to be done that would result in changing or demolishing a listed building. They will be sentenced today.

## Blot on the landscape goes from Bard to best

THE English car park, a leading blot on the landscape in which motorists are mugged and vehicles ravaged against the sides of narrow ramps and concrete pillars, took an uncertain step towards respectability yesterday.

The Duke of Gloucester presented the first English Tourist Board car park awards in London, a venture which means that the best of them will be able to display plaques normally reserved for historic buildings. Calling for better car parks, he said: "We expect good management in other forms of life. There's nothing more infuriating than finding car parks which don't have it."

The awards, sponsored by Rover Cars, were launched in response to recommendations from a task force established by Michael How-

ard, the employment secretary, to examine the impact of tourism on the environment. They are aimed at rewarding and encouraging an imaginative and useful approach to the design, construction and upgrading of car parks.

Bridgefoot multi-storey car park in Stratford-upon-Avon won the urban award, while the village car park at Downham in the Ribbles Valley, Lancashire, took the rural prize.

In Shakespeare country, the newly immortalised parking lot, designed by Keith Pavey of the Building Design Partnership and owned by the district council, is not expected to compete with Anne Hathaway's cottage as a boneport for sightseers. But the judges decided that the architecture and landscaping are outstandingly at-

tractive, while there is a "sense of well-being" internally from the design and high standard of customer care.

With white globe lights on turquoise sticks and hundreds of shrubs spilling from stone balconies, the car park, which is only yards from the poet's statue in front of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, is certainly unusual. The construction of the £2.5 million 642-space development in Stratford there were fears that it would ruin the town but most locals who are passionate about

maintaining Stratford's special character are learning to live with it.

Not so Linda Smith, cook at the Pen and Parchment public house which is reputed to pre-date Shakespeare. "It's an eyesore. I can't understand why it has won an award," she said. "I wouldn't park in it on principle. It's unnecessary. Pedestrianisation for tourists has taken up a lot of spaces." Hilary Justice, a shop manager, said: "This is Stratford. People come here from all over the world. It's all right but it ought to be a bit more oldie worldie. But of course it's good for business."

Christopher Hood, a GP from Oxford, and his family said they loved it. They brought a party of Belgian friends with them who all spontaneously said "Wow, this car

park is great" as they drove in.

The creation of the car park at Downham has transformed the beautiful stone-built village "by restoring the calmness of its visual environment and removing cars from verges and roads to one secluded location", the judges say.

The council-owned car park, designed by Michael Kirby and Graham Whipp, holds 38 cars and, for such a modest lot, the "quality and extent of the additional facilities is exceptional". There are lavatories and a baby room, "all of exquisite design".

William Davis, the tourist board chairman, said: "Like it or not the car is an essential form of transport for many of our tourists. We must put our car parks where tourists need them. At the same time we seek harmony, not conflict."

## Court blocks £14m sale of sports field given to town

BY FRANCES GIBB AND RONALD FAUX

SOME 21,000 residents won High Court backing yesterday in their fight to stop a council's multi-million-pound plan to sell for commercial development a 22-acre playing field given by a local benefactor.

The council's proposals were blocked by the High Court in the first of two test cases expected to have an important impact on the protection of open spaces held by local authorities on charitable trust for the public benefit.

Residents were celebrating last night after Mr Justice Chadwick ruled that the court had no power to authorise Oldham borough council, Greater Manchester, to sell Clayton playing fields. The plan to sell the fields was opposed by 21,000 people, 4,000 of whom formed the Clayton Action Group to fight the proposals with the Open Spaces Society.

On Monday, local residents had celebrated with fireworks, banners and a cavalcade of cars the 30th anniversary of the gift of the 24 acres of green space.

The council is considering an appeal. It regards its scheme to sell the site to a developer for £14 million as "a unique opportunity" to upgrade recreational facilities in the area by using money raised to provide and maintain new playing fields elsewhere. A Marks & Spencer and a Safeway store and 1,800 parking spaces were planned for the site.

The Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, who was represented by counsel in the case in his role as protector of charities, was awarded costs against Oldham council, which cannot sell without court sanction.

Wendy Lutley, assistant general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said later that

there could be many parks and recreation grounds given to councils by benefactors or acquired by public subscription where the wording in the deeds implied that there was a charitable trust. The society would be asking local authorities to check deeds, take legal advice and, if appropriate, register these pieces of land with the Charity Commission to give them some long-term protection.

Jim Young, chairman of the action group, said the playing fields were once a large hole in the ground bought by the late Ina Clayton, a local haulier, as a dump for millions of tons of fly ash he had contracted to remove from power stations.

By the early 1960s, Mr Clayton was a millionaire and the hole had been filled, turfed over and given to the citizens of Royton, Chadderton and Coldhurst, all districts of Oldham. The council put six football pitches on the land and the remainder became a popular open space. "It is a lovely spot on a high elevation with views over a country park in one direction, out to the Pennines in another and over the old mills of Oldham and south to Manchester."

David Shipp, director of legal services for Oldham, whose court costs are being met by the developers, Inter-city, said: "It is not over yet and I think serious thought will be given to an appeal."

The judge's ruling against Oldham on the main issue in the dispute — whether the court had power to sanction a sale of the land held on charitable trust by the council — meant that Oldham's case fell at the first fence. Unless the council wins on appeal, the judge will not have to consider other arguments over the merits of the sale.



Treasure trove: Brigitta Huybrejtsen of Christie's with some of the porcelain

## Buyers dive for sunken treasure

FROM SARAH JANE CHECKLAND  
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT, IN AMSTERDAM

THOUSANDS of porcelain items raised from the sea-bed off Vietnam were sold for up to seven times their estimated price at Christie's in Amsterdam yesterday. By the time the sale of 28,000 lots from the Vung Tau cargo ends today, it is expected to have raised about £5 million.

The morning session raised £870,575, about the sum expected for the whole day. A pair of rare beakers from the 17th century Chinese cargo sold for 44,850 guilders (£14,059), having been estimated at 6,000 guilders. Four blue and white tazze, or bowls on tall stems, fetched 32,200 guilders (£10,094). Among the most active bidders were British-based dealers and one from Taiwan.

Although dozens of lots were identical, there were often big differences in their prices. Sometimes this was due to minute differences in quality, but often the reason was what one dealer called the "last-chance syndrome". As a category began to run out, buyers panicked and prices rose accordingly. "Sometimes the last lot was half broken, and yet it fetched half as much again as the first," David Howard, of Heirloom and Howard, said. Colin Sheaf, the auctioneer, announced at the start of selling that "all lots are sold as is".

The cargo, named after

the town closest to where it was found, was discovered three years ago by a fisherman who caught it in his nets. The Vietnamese Salvage Corporation, a state-owned monopoly, established a partnership with the Swedish diving company Sverker Hallstrom to salvage the cargo. The two companies will share the proceeds of the sale.

Archaeologists believe that the wreck was a 17th century Chinese trading vessel bound for Batavia — now Jakarta, Indonesia — one of the centres for the Dutch trading empire. It probably sank because of a fire caused by one of the 14 cooking pots found on deck.

Before the auction, some dealers were fearful that Christie's was flooding the market with blue and white porcelain. Items from the Wankang cargo sale in 1986, that had been offered back on the market recently, had not fared well, they said.

The Vietnamese government delegation to the sale would not comment on any plans to salvage further wrecks believed to be beneath the South China Sea. Le Minh Cong, general director of the transport ministry, acknowledged the existence of further wrecks, but said: "Right now we couldn't say anything about the future. Each case we will submit to the government."

## Kiss saves baby from bath death

A baby saved by ambulance men after being found floating face-down in a bath was back home yesterday.

Stephen Jarve, aged four months, was being bathed by his mother Helen, aged 28, at their home in Maghull, Merseyside, when she slipped and fell, knocking herself unconscious. When she came to after an unknown time, the dazed mother could not see Stephen and made a panic-stricken 999 call.

An ambulance crew searched the house but it was only when Mike Smith, an ambulance officer, brushed back bubbles in the bath that the baby was found unconscious. Mr Smith gave the baby the kiss of life and his colleague Mark Brooks applied heart massage. As the ambulance drove to hospital the baby spluttered and started to cry. His mother said yesterday: "We owe his life to the ambulancemen."

## Robber jailed

David Freeland, a psychotherapist aged 58, was jailed for 14 years by Oxford crown court yesterday for armed robberies at banks in Stourbridge, West Midlands, Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, and Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

## Howerd tonic

Frankie Howerd, the 70-year-old comedian who was admitted to the Harley Street Clinic in London last week with heart trouble, left intensive care yesterday and was moved into his own room.

## Mast plan off

BT has shelved plans to build a 100ft radio mast with satellite dishes on Trundle Hill, overlooking Goodwood racecourse in West Sussex.

## Firm closes

Mansfield Knitwear of Hull, part of the Coats Viyella group, is to close with the loss of 196 jobs.

## Royal visit

The King and Queen of Sweden began a three-day visit to the Irish republic.

## Pope refuses compromise on celibate priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Pope yesterday affirmed celibacy for the priesthood, despite pressure from Catholics in Third World countries to meet a shortage of priests by allowing married ordinands, and a belief that celibacy is contributing to a crisis in vocations in the West.

John Paul says in an apostolic exhortation: "For an adequate priestly spiritual life, celibacy ought not to be

considered and lived as an isolated or purely negative element, but as one aspect of a positive, specific and characteristic approach to being a priest." He describes celibacy as "a singular source of spiritual fertility in the world" and adds: "It is especially important that the priest understand the theological motivation of the church's law on celibacy."

The shortage in the Third World has left some priests ministering to many thousands of people over wide

areas, with some communities going without a weekly mass. In Britain, the number of men wishing to become priests is in slow decline. Nearly 90 began training for the secular priesthood in England and Wales in 1990, compared with 104 in 1989, 107 in 1988 and 144 in 1982.

The Pope writes of "rejoicing at the growth and increase of priestly vocations now taking place in some parts of the world." He says that some priests are exhausted by their increas-

ing pastoral activities and calls for systematic training throughout a priest's life.

The exhortation, *Pastores dabo vobis* (I will give you shepherds), was welcomed by Catholic priests in England. Monsignor Peter Smith, rector of St John's seminary, Womersley, Surrey, said that it gave "an authoritative backing to what we are trying to do in the seminaries and confirms all the work of development which has taken place over recent years."

## Five years from now, will you be able to change your communications architecture as easily?

Despite what some companies may tell you, the future direction of communications technology is practically impossible to predict. But whether you're a telephone company or its customer, you have to make choices now. Stand alone or networked? Public or private? Wired or wireless? With so much uncertainty, how can you ever plan ahead?

Frankly, it's difficult. You have to be sure your supplier can offer you a range of solutions. Hopefully, they'll be solutions that will work for a long time, so you won't have to take a chance on somebody's unproven idea of what you'll be needing one day.

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This provides a pretty fair indication that our innovations today will become standard solutions in coming years, for telephone companies and their customers alike — whatever direction the future takes.





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***Funny, when the election  
came around,  
so did my operation.***

**Strange, isn't it? Thirteen years of NHS underfunding. And now, all of a sudden, a frantic, money-no-object scramble to shorten the waiting list.**

**operations, the better. But does this really mean the end of NHS underfunding?**

**Can it be that the people responsible for the loss of a quarter of all NHS beds have really had a change of heart?**

**It would be nice to think so. But what date have Health Service Managers been given to achieve this reduction in waiting list numbers? April 1st. Just 8 days before the election. Now there's a coincidence.**

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992

THE TIMES

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## ELECTION 92

## Wembley rally

## Major sets out 'ten Tory truths' for a golden future

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major put himself at the centre of his appeal to the people last night, promising them a "golden future" if they placed their trust in him tomorrow.

His emotionally patriotic appeal for a personal mandate was coupled with a robust restatement of his party's philosophy — ten Tory truths — and a scornful attack on Neil Kinnock's "unprincipled thirst for power".

He said: "I have lived life in many stations. I believe I understand what makes the heart of Britain beat. What inspires all those millions of families across this land who go out each day to work and strive and create for the future. They are the people who are carrying the long, glorious story of Britain forward across the years."

"This country needs a gov-

ernment that will nourish and sustain their ambitions, widen their choices, throw open the great gates of opportunity, and help the whole nation march through.

"I have only just begun the task I have set myself. On Thursday, I ask this nation to look at my record of service and my ideals for the future, to place their trust in me, and in this party that has served them so well and faithfully. I set no bounds to my ambitions for this country or its people."

"I know that we have in our grasp a truly glorious future." At a rally in Wembley, north London, he said there were ten great reasons why his party would triumph.

Strong defence, a commitment to the free market, low taxation to create wealth, controlling inflation, implacable hostility to the "tyranny" of trade union power, nourishing the health and education services, spreading private ownership, privatising once loss-making state industries, and strong government were the hallmarks of Conservative government.

Mr Kinnock, by contrast, was trying to slip into Downing Street by a "back door" deal with the Lib Dems over proportional representation. "It's nothing to do with fair play. Everything to do with power play. And we will have nothing of it."

The Labour leader had jettisoned his principles and could not be trusted. "Look at PR. He was always against. Now, in the latest, most cynical change of all, he hitches towards it, grasping desperately at a prospect of power. Power before principles. Does he think the public cannot see what he's up to?"

"Let Dr Major diagnose

the problem. It's the 'anything for office' syndrome. And let Dr Major prescribe there is only one known cure for this disabling condition. Five years on the Opposition benches.

"As prime minister you meet challenges; you face crises. That's when principle and experience guide you. When no principle is so great it cannot be quietly forgotten. To what principles would the Labour leader resort when the going is tough? Labour would be a rudderless ship in a storm-tossed sea. Or they would, under pressure, slide back to socialist type."

Mr Major's speech to the party faithful sought to answer many of the criticisms of the Conservative campaign. It offered an unflinching defence not just of his 16 months in power but also of the upheavals since 1979. It sought to dramatise his vision of the Nineties under a Conservative government.

"I want a Britain where there is a helping hand for those who need it. Where people can get a hand up, not just a hand out. A country that is fair and free from prejudice, a classless society at ease with itself."

Mr Major scorned the socialist alternative, saying "Socialism is not a road, it's a dead end."

He added: "Britain is ready now to move forward when others are sliding backwards. All around us the signs are there. In house building, in exports, in retail sales. All that Britain is waiting for is the confidence to achieve recovery is the confidence a Conservative government will bring."

Lord St John of Fawsley, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Defence of electoral reform

## Ashdown attacks 'bully tactics'

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown accused the Conservatives last night of embarking on a desperate and dangerous game by attacking voting reform. He warned voters that the Tories were trying to bully them out of support for the Liberal Democrats.

"However desperate their attacks, however weak they feel, the Conservative party will not be allowed to drag our country down with their party as they now contemplate defeat on Thursday," he told a rally in St Austell, Cornwall.

He singled out for censure Kenneth Baker who had dismissed PR, as a "pact with the devil". "On this issue we Liberal Democrats will not be

swayed by the panic reaction of a failed home secretary who knows he is about to lose his job," he said.

He was prepared to debate the issue on voting reform at any time and anywhere with Mr Baker. But the Liberal Democrats would not accept "this ridiculous stunt, this slander" on the decent people who wanted to modernise democracy.

Mr Ashdown said that John Major was insulting voters by telling them not to sleepwalk into the polling station. "More and more the Tories are now playing a dangerous game. They have a very simple attitude. If you don't vote Conservative, they treat you either as a fool or as

a knave." For 13 years, the Conservative party had been telling everybody what to do and it was time it listened instead.

"That way, Mr Major and his colleagues would find out where they have been going wrong. But no, their only reaction is to try and frighten you into the ballot box and to blame you for the position they are in."

The Conservatives, he said, were playing an even more dangerous card by gambling with the unity of Britain itself in claiming that the very integrity of the United Kingdom was only safe in their hands. "It is a desperate Tory line, but it is also a very dangerous Tory line."

where John Major is hindered, by fatigue. As the campaign has progressed, the leader of the opposition has looked older, wearier, and full of care. With his new glasses, the crow's feet and sad eyes lend him a statesman-like air. Short of a good night's sleep, Mr Major looks testy and grey.

But no party leader can entirely escape interviews, and Mr Kinnock has fielded his share. Here we have glimpsed the third of his three faces: "Kinnock the wriggler". I watched the interview with Jonathan Dimbleby carefully. This was a most evasive performance, reminding me of someone with whom I never thought Mr Kinnock could be compared: Margaret Thatcher.

Gone was the wild finger-snapping, gone the flights of rhetorical fancy, the strings of adjectives, the menagerie of excited abstract nouns. Mr Kinnock held his head still and spoke with a strange, trance-like calm. His sentences, properly analysed, were at best unilluminating and at worst literally nonsensical. Is this man on drugs?

Yes, the drug is called confidence. And it is coursing through Mr Kinnock's veins. Wiggler, bishop or mascot, he has stopped sweating. He looks electable.



Majorettes: Ruth Madoc, Lynsey de Paul, Rani Singh and Elaine Paige, supporting the Tory campaign at Langan's restaurant, London

## Kinnock rounds on 'washed up' government

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock appealed to the electorate last night to eject a tired washed up government, opening the way for Labour to save the national health service from a mortal danger and get Britain working again.

The Labour leader, speaking at the penultimate rally of his election campaign, said that by its vote tomorrow, the nation would decide the future of the health service. The choice facing Britain was between a Tory government of recession and privatisation and a Labour government of recovery and modernisation.

In his most ferocious attack on the government, he said: "The Tories have no new policies, no new ideas, no positive solutions, no ambition for our country. They are tired, they are washed up. They are like door-to-door salesmen, blue with cold, desperate to find a customer, unable to think of a new angle."

"I say to the British people that after all they have done they simply don't deserve to be re-elected. I simply say that these architects of recession, these engineers of rundown cannot be called upon to build a future."

Speaking in Blackburn, Lancashire, Mr Kinnock issued the strongest warning of the campaign that the NHS

was in peril. He said the service was the benchmark of civilisation in this century, something to be cherished and nurtured, adapted and improved.

"It is in mortal danger. Its whole future rests on the decision we take as a nation when we vote in the general election on Thursday. We can have a health service funded out of general taxation, free to everybody whenever they need it wherever they are, whatever is needed, or we can have a service split from top to bottom by a complex network of charges, of deals between patients and doctors, doctors and hospitals, hospitals and charities, charities and patients. We can have a health

service where the decisions are made by doctors or a service where the decisions are made by accountants.

"We cannot have them both. If you want the first kind of health service, you vote Labour. If you want the second kind of health service, you vote Tory. Let nobody in Britain be under any illusion that is what is at stake."

Mr Kinnock said Labour had campaigned on positive policies, on issues of concern to the people, homes, schools, health, law and order. It had campaigned on its policies to push back poverty and eradicate the poll tax. Above all, it had campaigned on its policies to get Britain working again. He scorned John Ma-

jo's claim that the Tories had created a "miraculous, historic success".

Britain was the only country in Europe in recession, a country where unemployment, poverty, homelessness and crime have all doubled or more than doubled since Mr Major and his party came to government. It had been the opposite of success. "It has been a terrible costly failure. One hundred more firms going out of business every day, 300 more families losing their homes every day, 2,000 more people going home every night with the shattering news that they have just been made redundant — and the man calls it a miraculous historic success."

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## Party's figurehead springs to life

It has been a weird and insubstantial campaign. As in one of those senseless, over-heated dreams where something, some key to understanding it all lies just out of reach, we are always on the brink of discovering what it is about, until... suddenly we wake up. It is April 10. There is a new government, and nobody ever did explain why. Why, for instance, did it have to be April 9? Already we have forgotten. It seemed important at the time. And who, as we end the campaign, is Neil Kinnock?

One of the most Alice-Through-the-Looking-Glass moments came at the beginning, when John Smith presented his alternative Budget. He did so in the glare of the television lights, with Mr Kinnock, Jack Cunningham, and a bowlful of roses. Journalists assumed that Mr Smith was there to outline the plans, Mr Kinnock was there to take questions with him, Mr Cunningham was there to chair the proceedings, and the roses were there for decoration.

After a few questions to Mr Smith, someone asked Mr Kinnock a question. Mr Cunningham leapt in with the demeanour of a Mad March Hare. The leader was not there to answer questions.



## CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

said the Hare: Would the questioner please redirect his enquiry to Mr Smith? Mr Kinnock sat there mute. He was there for decoration. If Lewis Carroll had scripted this, Mr Cunningham would have allowed the roses to answer the next question.

Rather like some regimental mascot, Mr Kinnock has been carried around the country, from ceremony to ceremony, smiling wordlessly for the cameras.

It is possible that the captions to the photographs were written at Walworth Road before the campaign started — the time, the place and the photo opportunity being arranged later. Neil Kinnock with smiling school children. "No, Mr Kinnock will not take questions from the press, only from the children."

Neil Kinnock with happy hospital patients — "No, the patients are not necessarily complaining about the NHS, but Mr Kinnock wanted to meet them anyway." Neil Kinnock with balloons —

"Yes, they're helium balloons — write that down, please, he+u+m: no, not hot air balloons. Neil Kinnock with women — "Lots of women, women all around him, notice the women? Happy women. Get the point? Mr Kinnock likes women. Women like Mr Kinnock. Look — the women are smiling."

"Kinnock the mascot" is one face, then, of the Labour leader. But there are three. The second is "Kinnock the bishop": for it would be wrong to say that he has been totally silent. Mr Kinnock has made a series of scripted speeches around the country. It is fair to say that these have been without content, but they have been well delivered. That head-butting neck-jerk with which the Labour leader punctuates the more emotional passages of his text, has not been controlled; but apart from this subliminally alarming trait, delivery has been impressively regulated.

Mr Kinnock is helped,



## Schools

Inadequate consultation on reforms

Academic outcry

Imposition without consensus approval

Opting-out of Local Authority control

Chronic underfunding

Low staff morale and early retirement

Increasing reliance on less qualified staff

Crumbling buildings and lack of maintenance

Falling standards in the face of increased demands placed by the national curriculum

Loss of extra-curricular subjects

Increasingly dependent on fundraising and charity for basic equipment

Less parental choice

Opt-out schools selecting high achievers and rejecting pupils with special needs

PARENTS DRIVEN INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INEQUALITY

## Hospitals

Inadequate consultation on reforms

Academic outcry

Imposition without consensus approval

Opting-out of Health Authority control

Chronic underfunding

Low staff morale and early retirement

Increasing reliance on less qualified staff

Crumbling buildings and lack of maintenance

Falling standards as resources are spent on spiralling administration costs

Loss of services

Increasingly dependent on fundraising and charity for basic equipment

Less patient choice

Fundholders favouring healthier patients: loss of vulnerable community services for those with high dependency

PATIENTS DRIVEN INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INEQUALITY

A POORLY EDUCATED AND LESS HEALTHY POPULATION

WHY???

NHS Support Federation  
National Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations  
National Union of Students  
NHS Consultants Association

NHS Support Federation, 28 Commercial Street, London E1 6LS - Chair: Prof. Harry Keen Vice Presidents: Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, Graham Pink, Sue Townsend, Helen Zeitlin.

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## Labour majority predicted

## Poll contradicts Tory estimate of voting patterns

THE Conservative party has claimed throughout the campaign that the national polls are underestimating the number of seats they will win, because their vote is distributed more effectively across the constituency map than Labour's.

A region-by-region analysis of the large ICM/Press Association poll suggests the contrary. Its result for the country is Conservative 36.2 per cent (down 7.0 on 1987), Labour 38.7 per cent (up 7.2) and Liberal Democrats 20.4 per cent (down 2.7), a swing of 7.1 per cent from Conservative to Labour and of 1.3 per cent from Conservative to the Liberal Democrats.

Repeated in every constituency, these swings would result in Conservatives 290, Labour 311, Liberal Democrats 23, Nats 10, Irish 17. Labour would be 15 short of an overall majority but could govern with the co-operation of the Liberal Democrats.

Take regional differences in swing into account and the result is: Conservatives 281, Labour 319, Liberal Democrats 21. Labour would be seven short of an overall majority and could manage without the demanding support of the Liberal Democrats: co-operation from Plaid Cymru and the Irish SDLP, which should be fairly easy to secure, would be sufficient.

The regional pattern of swings helps Labour in three ways. First, Labour's "easy" targets — the first 50 — are disproportionately concentrated in the North-West where the swing is below average but not by enough to deprive them of these easy pickings. Second, Labour's

*Ivor Crewe finds little comfort for the Conservatives in this week's large national opinion poll*

harder targets — in the range 51st to 100th — are disproportionately concentrated in London, where the swing is slightly above the national average. Third, Labour's hardest targets of all — from 101st to 120th — are disproportionately located in the West Midlands, where Labour appears to be enjoying a 10.7 per cent swing.

Some technical caveats about the estimates should be made. The fieldwork for the poll was conducted between last Tuesday and Friday. More recently conducted polls point to a continuing rise in Liberal Democrat support since then, at the expense of the Conservatives.

The Liberal Democrats may well squeeze the Labour vote in the South-East and South-West — as happened in the final few days of the 1983 and 1987 campaigns — but find themselves squeezed by both parties in the Conservative-Labour marginals.

Although the margin of error is only plus or minus 5 per cent for the national figures, given the sample size of 10,460, it is at least plus or minus 3 per cent for the regional sub-samples, whose size is about 800 — the use of decimals rather than rounded whole numbers for regional vote shifts could therefore be over-precise.

Most of the estimated regional swings are corroborated by independent polls. The negligible swing in Scotland

corresponds to separate Scotland-only polls, the massive 10.9 per cent swing in Yorkshire and Humberside is matched by the Mori/Yorkshire Television poll of Conservative marginals and the 7.5 per cent swing in London is close to that reported in last week's Harris/LWT poll. But the below average swings in the South-West and East Anglia are lower than the regional analysis of aggregated Gallup polls — and gloomy Conservative assessments.

Finally, constituency swings can vary within regions as well as between them. Incumbent MPs, especially for the smaller parties, can defy adverse regional swings, as the constituency polls in the Liberal Democrats' super-marginal of Brecon and Radnor suggests.

*Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.*



On the run: Nicholas Witchell, the BBC presenter, prepares to run in Sunday's London marathon in aid of St John Ambulance encouraged by Dick Taverner, the former Social Democrat MP, left, Kate Hoey, Labour candidate for Vauxhall, and Richard Tracey, Tory candidate for Surbiton, right

## Molyneux demands Scottish-style deal for Ulster

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JAMES Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, said yesterday that he would vote against an attempt by a Labour government to pursue devolution in Scotland if similar arrangements were not offered to Northern Ireland.

Speaking at a press conference in the bomb-damaged headquarters of the UUP in central Belfast, Mr Molyneux again ruled out any formal

deals between his party's MPs in the new parliament and either of the two main parties. He offered instead an informal understanding based on his party's known objectives. He said that Ulster Unionists recognised the importance of ensuring that a new government could be formed and that his party would not behave in the reckless manner that it believed the Liberal Democrats were threatening to.

On Scottish devolution, Mr Molyneux was unequivocal. He would

oppose a Labour Queen's speech containing it unless Northern Ireland was being offered the same arrangements. There was no reason why Northern Ireland should not be treated similarly, especially since the political parties in the province had more than 50 years' experience of operating devolved structures.

Mr Molyneux added that it would be unfair to deny devolution to Belfast pending cross-party or cross-community agreement on the structures required since, in Scotland, no

such consensus would be achievable or necessary.

Another issue on which his party would vote with an opposition would be on what Mr Molyneux called "any further surrender of sovereignty" resulting from the Maastricht treaty on European economic and political union. He said that his MPs would oppose as a matter of principle, and whatever the consequences, the implementation of legislation following on from undertakings made at Maastricht.

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2. In 1991 we lost one hour per worker through industrial disputes compared to three and a half days in 1979.

3. Investment in research and development is nearly twice the 1978 level.

4. We export more per head than the Japanese.

5. Our productivity growth matches Japan's — and beats all other major countries.

Free enterprise will soon pull Britain out of recession.

## Party predicts gains

## Lib Dems eye West for key successes

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS PADDY Ashdown made a final sweep through the West Country yesterday, Liberal Democrat officials were confident of gaining seats there but were cautious about claiming success in some of the constituencies where the party has a high profile.

Des Wilson, the campaign director, said that about ten Tory-held constituencies in Devon, Cornwall and other pockets of old Liberalism dotted around Britain look the most winnable for the Liberal Democrats tomorrow. Mr Wilson expected the best result for the third party since the second world war. The five-point rise in their poll rating since the start of the campaign puts the Liberal Democrats within sight of the 23 per cent of the vote that the SDP-Liberal Alliance achieved in 1987. In spite of Mr Wilson's optimism, the Liberal Democrats' victories are likely to be balanced by losses of at least two of the 22 seats they held in the last parliament, and the failure to win Labour-held marginals that they have targeted.

The party's most fertile territory for gains from the Conservatives, according to local polls, includes Falmouth and Camborne, where Sebastian Coe is standing for the Tories. North Devon, North Cornwall and South East Cornwall. Hopes are also high in Torbay, Tiverton and St Ives.

The party leadership would be distraught if no more than 15 MPs were returned: mildly depressed with 20; delighted with 25; and delirious with 30-plus.

The indications are that Chris Patten, the chairman of the Conservative party, who had a majority of 1,412 in Bath in 1987, will hold the seat. The Liberal Democrats tend to score well only where their candidates has a strong local record. In Bath their candidate, Don Foster, has been selected recently and comes from Bristol, regarded in Bath as enemy territory.

Liberal Democrat advisers are vaguely uneasy at the prospect of finally wresting Cheltenham from the Conservatives, because such a result could be seen as a racist protest-vote against John Taylor, the Tory candidate, who is black.

The Liberal Democrats are fielding one of their best candidates, Jenny Tonge, a GP, in Richmond and Barnes, but their chances against Jeremy Hanley, the Tory, who had a

majority of 1,766 in 1987, do not look great.

Two seats, Conwy in North Wales and the Isle of Wight, were fairly low down on the target list at the start of the campaign, but have been promoted to the first division of winnable seats. The Liberal Democrats also seem likely to take Hereford.

Liz Lynne, the Liberal Democrat candidate in Rochdale, faces tough competition from Labour after the retirement of Sir Cyril Smith. Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley, both won by the Liberal Democrats at by-elections, are also vulnerable.

Seats in the North that the Liberal Democrats have targeted, including Hazel Grove and Colne Valley, might not swing to them because of the three-way split in the vote. Also in doubt, because of the Labour threat, are two of the seats highest on the party's hit list, Portsmouth South and Stockton South, both formerly held by the Social Democrats.

Mr Wilson relied for his optimism partly on regional polls, showing the Liberal Democrats on 33 per cent in the South West and 28 per cent in the South East, together with polls published by local newspapers putting the party ahead in Bath, Hazel Grove and Falmouth and Camborne.

Although polls in Scotland have been dismal, falling as low as 7 per cent during the campaign, the Liberal Democrats are expecting to retain most if not all of the ten seats they held there in the last parliament. There are question marks over the constituency of Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, being defended by Sir Russell Johnston, and North East Fife, being defended by Menzies Campbell. However, Scotland's four-way split and a possible surge by the Scottish nationalists, make the result hard to predict.

In Wales, Richard Livsey will be in a three-way tussle to keep a grip on Brecon and Radnor where he had a majority in 1987 of a mere 56.

The third party has a habit of picking up a few odd seats which had not been marked out highly during the campaign, such as Southport in 1987. The seats that could see surprise Liberal Democrat victories include Liverpool Broad Green, Hastings, Twickenham and East London's Bow and Poplar.



## Labour puts faith in civil service

## Kinnock rules out night of long knives

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

ONE of the first acts of a Labour government would be to assure Whitehall's mandarins that the civil service will not be politicised. Nor would there be a great clear out of senior figures who have served the Tories over the past 13 years.

Mr Kinnock has told *The Times*: "I've got very strong confidence in the British civil service system and consequently I won't in No 10 be looking over my shoulder at people who've served the immediate two previous prime ministers. I'm certain that they don't operate on a partisan basis and they produce an efficient service. My only test always of everything is 'does it work?'"

Mr Kinnock said that he could offer "a blueprint for the most beneficial but up-to-date reorganisation of the system of government". But he said that such reforms had to await an improvement in the British economy and that even then they should proceed by consensus. "The last thing I want to inflict on the system is turmoil."

He is, however, determined to proceed swiftly with Labour's promised freedom of information act, which is likely to cause some ructions in Whitehall.

Mr Kinnock is sceptical of the value of extending the "cabinet" system of clusters of political appointees around ministers, advocated in a recent speech to the First Division Association of top civil servants by Bryan Gould. Although he does not regard such questions as being in "no-go areas", his colleagues say that the Labour leader believes such appointments would blur lines of responsibility and that he remains to be convinced of their value.

Copies of Labour's manifesto have been distributed throughout Whitehall during the election. Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, met the shadow cabinet last November for a discussion and shadow ministers have in recent weeks had private consultations with permanent secre-

aries over how Labour's plans for the structure and organisation of departments could be implemented.

Labour is committed to a new ministry for women, a new ministry of the arts, and cabinet places for a minister of environmental protection, a minister for Europe and a minister for international development. Policy documents have also outlined plans for a minister of state for community care, a minister for science and a minister for children.

In addition, plans for various quangos such as a Greater London authority, regional development agencies in England, a national investment bank, education standards commission, food standards agency and quality commission for local government have been talked through with officials.

In spite of this, colleagues say that Mr Kinnock would be more like Margaret Thatcher than Harold Wilson or Edward Heath in his attitude to Whitehall. "He won't be a great mover of government Lego blocks," a colleague said yesterday. "Fundamentally he accepts the structure that is there."

Like Mrs Thatcher, Mr Kinnock is said to see Whitehall restructuring as a distraction from the implementation of policy. If elected, he plans to take the measure of the system during the first extended session of parliament through to the summer of 1993 before consulting with leading civil servants about ways of improving the efficiency of government.

The return to government of John Major would not leave Whitehall undisturbed. Under the plans outlined during the Conservative election campaign there would be the biggest shake-up of responsibilities for two decades.

Under the Conservatives there would be a new cabinet-level post with overall charge of the citizen's charter, monitoring Whitehall efficiency and reforming the civil service. A new ministry of the

arts and national heritage would take over responsibility for broadcasting from the Home Office and for sport from the education department.

The department of energy would be absorbed into a revamped department of trade and industry which would also take responsibility for small businesses from the employment department. Employment would take over the Home Office's responsibilities for women's issues.

In order to tighten the government's regulatory grip, the Treasury would take over responsibility for overseeing all financial services. The environment department would take on energy efficiency responsibilities from the disappearing energy department and gain greater powers over urban regeneration.

Labour is expected to look at the Conservatives' proposed reforms and might take on some of them.



The right stuff: Guy Hatcher, Natural Law candidate for Epsom and Ewell, demonstrates through a brain-mapping test that he is in the state of "restful alertness" that makes a good politician (Alison Roberts writes). As journalists

giggled at a press conference yesterday, Mr Hatcher's head was hooked up to electroencephalographic equipment borrowed from the Maharishi Vedic University in Iowa and produced blue and yellow brain patterns of tranquillity and orderliness. Politicians who have not mastered the art of yogic flying will produce the red brain graphic of tortured agitation. All 310 candidates of the Natural Law party have undergone the test and had their high quality blue brains passed.

## A few days transform absurd forecast into likely result

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

In two and a half days' time, Neil Kinnock may be prime minister. Just writing that would have seemed absurd for most of his 8 1/2 years as Labour leader. But over the past few days the political world and perhaps the public have begun to adjust to the possibility, even likelihood, that Labour will be the largest single party in a hung parliament.

So mesmerised have we all been by April 9, that only now is Labour starting to face up to what it may have to do in office. Labour's leaders show no sense of triumphalism, but rather nervous expectation and apprehension. They cannot quite believe that victory could be so near.

I spent Monday in the Midlands, first with Gordon Brown and then with Tony Blair, and finally at a rally in Birmingham, that they both addressed with Roy Hattersley. Mr Brown and Mr Blair will play important roles in office, at trade and industry and at employment. Neither has any direct experience of a Labour government. They were not elected until 1983. While both have detailed plans as part of the recovery programme, they are not over-confi-

dent. Only Mr Hattersley and John Smith have been in cabinet before, and well over half the likely cabinet have never held even junior office. All know they have to prove themselves. Labour has mainly gained as a result of the recession and public dislike of the Tories after 13 years in office. There have been few signs of active enthusiasm for Labour's programme; the party will have to win support in office for its ideas.

The first test of a Labour government will probably come in the financial markets. The impression I get from Mr Kinnock's advisers is that he is prepared to take tough action to establish credibility. A Labour government would be ready to raise interest rates to see off any speculative attack. And I would not rule out a rapid move to the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Forget all talk of Lab-Lib deals or arrangements. If Labour is the largest single party, it would govern

alone. Mr Kinnock is prepared to call Paddy Ashdown's bluff about bringing down a minority government which did not hold formal talks with other parties about a Queen's Speech. Labour leaders believe that Scottish Liberal Democrats would not vote against a Queen's Speech proposing a parliament in Edinburgh. There are already tensions between some of the Scottish Lib Dems and Mr Ashdown, of which Labour is well aware and will not be slow to exploit.

Moreover, recent discussion of Mr Kinnock's plan to broaden the membership of the Plant enquiry into electoral reform has distracted attention from his other shift towards emphasising a consensus programme. Mr Hattersley, heart and soul a party man, emphasised in Birmingham how Labour would not "ride roughshod over our opponents. In government, we shall work for consensus."

In practice, a Queen's Speech from a minority government would emphasise economic recovery, boosting the health service and edu-

cation, and constitutional reform. There would deliberately be a lot of common ground with Liberal proposals. That does not mean that Labour would water down its manifesto but that the programme would be difficult for the Lib Dems to reject.

In office, Labour would have strong cards. And Mr Ashdown's strategy could well rebound, not only if his own party splits but if the electorate punishes the Lib Dems at a second election.

The prospect of Mr Kinnock as prime minister, plus worries over what Labour's plans mean for tax and take-home pay, could still result in a last minute switch to the Tories among waverers and Lib Dem supporters. That is about the Tories' only hope of holding on to office. But there is little sign of that so far. The Tories generally have the look of losers. Kenneth Baker's warnings about immigration and the dangers of a rise of fascism if proportional representation were adopted — "a pact with the devil", he called it — have smelt of desperation. Similarly, Michael Heseltine has gone over the

top in claiming that a Kinnock government would take "Britain's economy on a headlong dive to disaster". It is about as wild as Mr Kinnock's warning that a continuation of Tory government would turn the recession into a slump. There are important differences between both parties' policies but to talk of a choice between disaster and slump is a gross exaggeration.

By contrast, Labour campaigners are almost universally confident. That is partly just the stark contrast with the poor results in 1983 and 1987. But in the Midlands I was struck by how even experienced regional organisers have raised their sights. The party is no longer just expecting to win the Northfield, Selly Oak and Yardley seats in Birmingham. It is talking about capturing Hall Green, Dudley West and Warwickshire North. Labour believes it will win, or at any rate be the biggest single party. Anything less will be a devastating shock.

Peter Riddell

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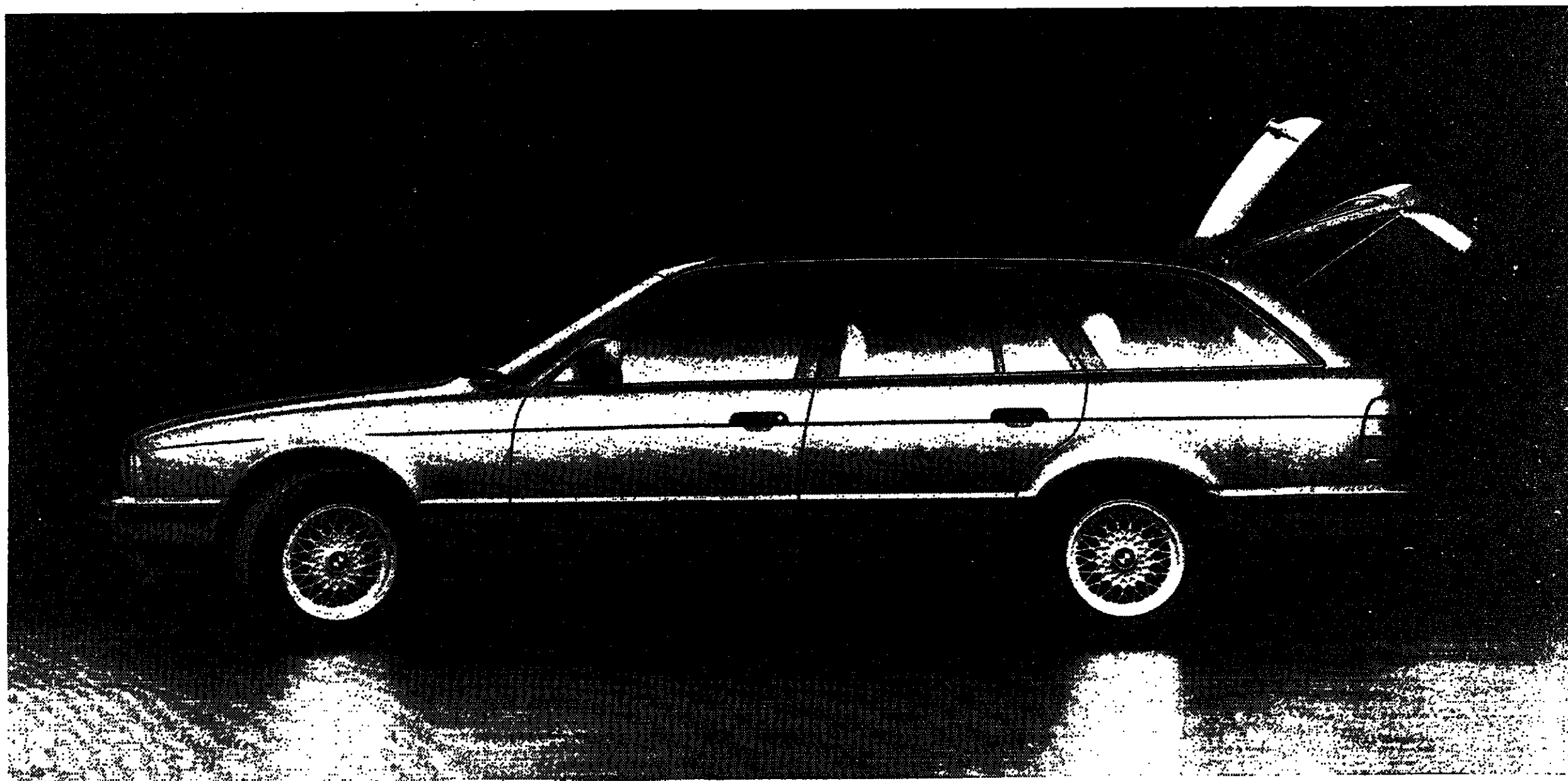
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# Harassed constituency candidates rush on oblivious of the larger picture

To be a candidate in a general election is a weird experience. For three long weeks you are locked up in a tiny world of your own, oblivious to the outside one, utterly obsessed with the shifts and movements and crises of your own constituency. There is little time to read newspapers, except the local ones, and no time at all to watch television, least of all party political broadcasts.

How are the postal and proxy votes coming along? Why is Mrs Jones, a lifelong Tory, now muttering about voting for the Liberal Democrats? Is it really true that we have found strong support in Ellesmere Avenue? Why is The Crown sporting Labour

**Sir Robert Rhodes James, former Tory MP, still relishes the fight as he campaigns for colleagues in the North**

posters? Why has the Battle Bus broken down again? Why didn't the local paper carry that story we gave them about the Labour candidate's gaffe on council spending? Why won't the hospital let me canvass there?

This is the stuff of the candidate's life. Meals are grabbed, usually as pub lunches; oceans of tea and coffee are drunk; the daily programme of visits, walkabouts, answering letters, and sending off the media seems to get more arduous as polling day ap-

proaches. What is going on elsewhere is of no concern to the candidate and his team, contemptuously chucking the mound of literature from central office into the dustbin.

A parliamentary candidate is, in short, the last person you should seek information from about the general picture. He or she does not give a damn about the general picture.

For the first time in more than 15 years, I am not a candidate, so I set out to the North to support friends who are former colleagues, de-

fending difficult seats. For the first time in an election, I have time to read the papers and watch television.

There is one extraordinary phenomenon of a Conservative campaign that I had not previously realised. When I walked into David Sumner's campaign headquarters in Bury South, the ladies were stuffing envelopes with election literature. I could have sworn that they were the same ones I had left in Cambridge, doing the same job, chattering away, gossiping happily, drinking gallons of tea, and alternating between grumbles and great cheerfulness. But I then found them in other constituencies. It

seemed as though we had a special cohort of these splendid people being taken around the country from constituency to constituency.

Modern elections have become startlingly high-tech, with mobile phones, word processors, computers and faxes. Everyone has a Battle Bus (and who, pray, coined that idiotic description of a tired old van, a Thirties lorry, or a Range-Rover?). It all seems very professional compared with my first experiences in the distant Seventies, but the odd thing is that the essentials remain.

People matter. They have to be found for a huge variety of tasks, from envelope-stuffing to canvassing, writing and

distributing leaflets, monitoring the enemy ("Did she really say she supports the FLO? Check it out, urgently") and picking up gossip in pubs (far more important and useful than the political scientists seem to realise). As Alan Herbert remarked, it never ceases to amaze him that so many people would take so much of their time and energy to get someone else into Parliament.

But what was The Other Lot doing? As far as we could see, nothing at all. Where were their canvass teams? In Wallasey, we saw a group of Liberal Democrats working a shopping street, without much joy, as far as we

could see, from people whose only interest was in getting home. It was all very cheering.

Thus, for all the high-tech and glossy election addresses, with pretty colour photographs of the candidate and his/her family and dogs, an English campaign is refreshingly old-fashioned, warm and human. I found canvassing for other people far more enjoyable than canvassing for myself.

I was always treated with immense courtesy and friendliness, and not least by a gorgeously pretty young lady in a diminutive bathrobe who, alas, was a schoolteacher active in the National Union of Teachers and Lab-

our. My former Cambridge constituents tend to be reticent about their voting intentions; not so in the North.

The whole experience reminded me vividly of 1970, when the opinion polls were grim but the canvass returns (which we did not believe then) were excellent, and proved to be the true guide. For what it is worth, my five-day foray revealed that the Conservative vote was holding up strongly in every constituency and it was exhilarating to see the Tory army on the march again. The candidates were surviving, too. They and their families are counting the days and hours to April 9. I know how they feel.

## Constituency profiles: Jobs stay a big concern with voters whether in the towns or in the countryside

### Gummer pleads with disaffected farmers not to forsake Tories

BY JOHN YOUNG

A HELICOPTER brought John Gummer, the agriculture minister, to Devon yesterday to warn disaffected farmers not to jeopardise their own best interest by dropping their traditional allegiance to the Conservative party and to Emma Nicholson, defending the seat.

Pouring scorn on the European federalist sympathies of the Lib Dems, who are widely expected to make big gains in the South-West, Mr Gummer suggested that anyone who voted for them was voting for the proposals by Raymond MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, to bankrupt British farming by switching resources to southern Europe.

"We are the only party that backs the countryside," he told a polite but sceptical audience of farmers and their families at the Big Sheep, a combined farm and theme park just outside Bideford. To a background of baas and bleats, he described Labour as a party of townies who did not know the first thing about agriculture, and the Liberal Democrats as caring nothing for British interests in their headlong enthusiasm for European integration.

Mr Gummer's strictures may not be enough. Miss Nicholson's majority of just under 6,500 at Devon West and Torridge is considered to be seriously at risk, and a big factor in her possible downfall is the plight of farming.

According to Mike Turner, the local Conservative chairman and owner of the Big Sheep, farmers account for about 15 per cent of the constituency's electorate, more than seven times the

proportion nationally. At least another 15 per cent work in ancillary industries or are otherwise dependent on agriculture.

But these are hard times, and the future of the small family farm in particular is under greater threat than at any time since before the war. To that can be added discontent at the declining quality of

1987 result: Miss E H Nicholson (C) 29,484 (50.3%); J P A Burnett (L/AI) 23,016 (39.2%); D G Brenton (Lab) 4,990 (8.5%); F Williamson (Grn) 1,168 (2.0%); Conservative majority: 6,468 (11.0%).



urban life, with the loss of local employment, schools, shops, public transport and affordable housing.

The economic situation has compounded their difficulties. Tens of thousands of jobs have disappeared in agriculture and in mining; there are now only about 178,000 full-time farmers, compared with three or four times that number a generation ago.

Farm incomes are at their lowest level for ten years, and

the rural development commission estimates that a further 100,000 jobs could disappear in the next ten years.

Between 1984 and 1990, a total of 30,000 jobs were lost in the rural coalfields of the East Midlands. But country people have far less choice of alternative employment than their urban counterparts, and less opportunity for retraining. Small businesses, many established with grants in redundant farm buildings, some by farmers seeking to diversify, have been hard hit by the combined effect of recession and the uniform business rate.

Above and beyond that is the antipathy felt to "newcomers", commuters and weekend second-home owners who have moved into villages and forced property prices up far beyond the means of local first-time buyers. Villages where young people can no longer find a place to live are becoming all too common.

Country people on the whole are unlikely to believe that either Labour or the Liberal Democrats would take a more sympathetic view of their difficulties. But the malaise that is afflicting so many aspects of country life could spring some nasty surprises on the Conservatives at the polls.



Recruiting drive: Jackie Ballard greeting a voter in her effort to overturn a 10,000 Tory majority in Taunton

### Rasputin's double succumbs to Paddy factor

BY BILL FROST

WITH a friend like that, who needed enemies, Jackie Ballard, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Taunton, would have been perfectly entitled to ask, a tall, cadaverous and bearded political

admirer was parading up and down the shopping precinct scaring the voters with bizarre election pledges and warnings of Armageddon.

"Oh, no! Do something quick," Ms Ballard hissed. By now, the man, who could have been Rasputin's identical twin, had transferred his attention from a small child to an elderly woman. Waving a Lib Dem placard frantically, he backed the terrified pensioner against a litter bin and hectoring her mercilessly.

"You shouldn't be talking on my behalf really," Ms Ballard said. The mild rebuke went unnoticed as the man

stared into the middle distance and warned shoppers about meltdown at Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

Earlier, Ms Ballard found herself the victim of vindictive ruminants at the town's livestock market, treading in something dreadful. Bearded men and other hazards apart, the campaign is going well for Ms Ballard. So well in fact, that the Tories in Taunton, defending a majority last time of 10,380, have said the result appears to be "neck and neck".

On the Halcott council estate, where every home comes with a rowler or snarling alsatian, former Labour supporters are coming over to Ms Ballard in droves. "I believe in the Labour, but they've no chance here in Taunton," Marlene Smith said. "Your policies make a lot of sense too, so, to keep the Tories out, you can count on

1987 result: D J Nicholson (C) 50,248 (51.4%); M A K Gentry (SDP/AI) 19,988 (33.7%); G Reynolds (Lab) 8,754 (14.9%); Conservative majority 10,380 (17.6%).

us." Her husband nodded vigorously.

Back on the street, Ms Ballard leapt smartly out of the path of a battered car and ignored a shouted insult. "You can't win them all," she laughed nervously as the drizzle became a downpour.

Still, there was consolation on the next doorstep. Pamela Hogan, once a staunch Tory, said: "I've just become so disillusioned. All those promises and we end up with recession and poll tax. I won't forgive them for that, nor will thousands of others here in Taunton."

Some of the farmers are

deserting the Tories too. Andy Harding, aged 41, has given up rearing cattle and become an auctioneer's assistant at the livestock market. "I've put my farm up for sale because of the recession they caused. I've got to sell if I'm to pay off my debts."

Colin Hutchings, a sheep farmer, had lost faith in the Conservatives too. "They got us into this slump but they can't get us out. It's time someone else had a chance. I couldn't be any worse," he said.

In the far western corner of the constituency, on Exmoor, another spectacular conversion has been achieved. Rohaise Thomas-Everard, landowner and breeder of Arab horses, has parted company with the Conservatives and started campaigning for the Liberal Democrats. Such is her dedication to her new cause that she has posed rath-

er stiffly for pictures with Ms Ballard which now feature on the front of a Liberal Democrat newsletter.

Ms Ballard attributed much of her apparent success in Taunton to the "Paddy factor". "Yeovil is our neighbouring constituency and Paddy Ashdown has been very high profile in Somerset for years," she said. "Traditionally the South-West used to be strongly Liberal, and now the message is getting across: the voters want a change and the old two-party loyalties have gone."

David Nicholson, the Tory candidate, said that he was not surprised that the Liberal Democrats were feeling reasonably encouraged. "There's no doubt they're better organised than five years ago and have worked hard in preparation. I don't feel under threat but I'm not complacent either."

### Mandelson adopts a company image

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE head of one of the few flourishing factories in the industrial wasteland of Hartlepool outlines how his firm is coping with the recession. Across the boardroom table, the man in the business suit, white shirt and striped tie looks and sounds like one of his middle managers.

He is Peter Mandelson, the Labour candidate, a good soldier of the New Model Party. They don't get many Oxford philosophy, politics and economics graduates, southerners or former party communications directors as candidates in the North-east.

Mr Mandelson asks the boss if he has ever called on

1987 result: E Leadbitter 24,296 (48.5%); P C Catchpole (C) 17,007 (33.9%); A Preece (L/AI) 7,047 (14.1%); J J Cameron (Ind) 1,786 (3.6%); Labour majority 7,289 (14.5%).

the services of his local MP. "Well, we got Ted to open our extension," he says after some thought. Ted Leadbitter, who has retired after 40 years as councillor and MP, was much respected, even by local Tories.

On the shop floor amid clattering machinery — all German — Mr Mandelson enthuses: "This is the model of what I want in Hartlepool, competitive, highly customised and with a big investment in technology."

Hartlepool certainly needs jobs. Ten thousand were lost between 1980 and 1985 and 2,000 in the past two years. Mr Mandelson links unemployment to rising crime. "Jobs and police are the answer, not social workers and softer sentences."

The question is whether an Oxford graduate is the answer here. The Tory camp says that when it put up a management consultant from Surrey in 1987, the party lost by 7,289, but when it fielded a local man in 1983 it lost only by 3,090. Its contender this time is Graham Robb, aged 28, a local public relations consultant.

Mr Mandelson has an important promise up his sleeve. Labour, he says, will not implement the Taylor committee report on making football grounds all-seater. If Hartlepool FC, struggling up the Third Division, were forced to comply, it would almost certainly join the town's business casualties.

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12/1...22 SEATS 10/1...26 SEATS 16/1...30 SEATS

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### Man with a ladder makes Fintry's Tories see red

ON THE evidence of the posters plastered over Fintry, a village on the upper reaches of the Endrick valley, its inhabitants were praying last night for a new, socialist dawn. Not a single Conservative poster could be found: the place was a sea of red.

Could this whole village, with its white-washed cottages, hanging baskets, horse boxes and Mercedes parked in the main street, really have defected to Labour? Surely someone, somewhere must vote Tory. If not, then it was a bad omen for Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister of state, who is defending his Stirling seat, fighting to retain, and perhaps improve on, his majority of 548, the second smallest in Scotland.

Further investigation was required. A man outside the village shop gave a knowing laugh. Then a teenage girl explained. On Sunday night one of the locals had emerged from the inn after several refreshments. Feeling in the mood for a wheeze, he had apparently gone home, fetched a ladder and proceeded, giggling, to remove all the Tory posters from every lamp, garden gate, tree and telegraph pole in the village. Trouble was, someone tipped off the local Con-

1987 result: M B Forsyth (C) 17,191; M Connarty (Lab) 16,643; I McFarlane (L/AI) 6,804; I M Lawson (SNP) 4,697. Conservative majority: 548.

servative "high heeled yin", who trailed him round Fintry in her car, her outrage increasing with every poster that fluttered to the ground.

The police were told and yesterday a spokesman said the matter was being investigated. Apparently, the police had arrived and asked a girl if she had seen a man with a ladder. She said she didn't know anyone who drove a Lada in Fintry. It is that kind of village.

Fourteen miles away, on the Raploch housing estate in Stirling, there was a similar dearth of Tory posters, but for rather different reasons. "The Raploch" has one of the worst reputations for deprivation and all the ills that that condition brings, in central Scotland. John McDonald was outside his council flat exercising Tyson, his dog. "Are you the poll tax man?" he asked. Mr McDonald, on income support, said that many people on the Raploch had not

Kerry Gill looks at the two faces of Stirling, where the Conservative majority is just 548

paid their poll tax. The poll tax might be an old issue among most of the electorate, but not on the Raploch, a grey, treeless huddle of ageing council houses beneath Stirling Castle. Mr McDonald said that he had paid the first year, paid half his bill the second year and nothing this year. The upshot, a familiar tale on the estate, was that his debt was being reduced forcibly by about £2 a week off his benefit.

"Michael Forsyth the man might be all right, but he is just a yes-man for Maggie," he said. But Margaret Thatcher was long gone. "Maggie is still the issue in Stirling. She gets the blame for the poll tax and all that is bad about the Tories. You have to pay to put clothes and shoes on your bairns, then they take the money back in poll tax. This estate is 95 per cent Labour and maybe 5 per cent SNP," Mr McDonald added. "You won't find any Tories here."

Huge sums of public and private money are being spent on Stirling, its riverfront and, particularly, its historic centre that overlooks the Raploch before the rather better view of the Trossachs to the north. On the estate they are not impressed. One man said: "People here live on the bare necessities. They are scared to leave their houses in case they lose what little they have got. Then they are spending millions up there."

Mr Forsyth's main threat comes from Kate Phillips, the Labour candidate. She is convinced that Mr Forsyth's style of conviction politics and his unpopularity with the opposition parties generally will encourage tactical voting to get rid of him.

There is no doubting Mr Forsyth's strong following in the largely rural constituency, however. Even the grumbling farmers, many of whom have threatened to give the Tories a fright, are expected to "come to mummy" tomorrow. Mr Forsyth is also acknowledged to be an excellent constituency man and, more important for tomorrow's result, the resurgence of the nationalists could eat into Labour's vote.

Further west, in villages such as Kilmarnock, Gargunnock, Kippendavie and Fintry, the Tory vote strengthens, pranksters notwithstanding. If the election could be won on the size of posters, Michael Forsyth would have a landslide victory. Mrs Thatcher, for instance, had a rapturous welcome in Kilmarnock the other day.

In the centre of Stirling yesterday, Mr Forsyth was upbeat, confident and clearly well liked. While he chatted to passers-by after an altercation developed between the Labour and SNP camps on the other side of the street, a Labour campaigner started yelling at the nationalists, decrying Gerry Fisher, their candidate.

The man would not shut up despite the pleas of his colleagues. What was the run-up to the election, it has been a long campaign.

Mr Fisher had just finished telling everyone to vote SNP for no nuclear weapons, no poll tax, no nuclear waste and, obscurely, no phoney double-glazing salesmen. He could stand the man's interruptions no longer. Mr Fisher picked up a megaphone and, to cheers from the crowds, screamed: "Be quiet or, alternatively, keep your big fat mouth shut!"

John is a Tory



Property market

# House prices most at risk in South-East

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A FURTHER sharp drop in house prices seems likely in London and the South-East if Labour wins the election, but the outlook for housing in the rest of the country may depend less on tomorrow's poll than on the state elections held in Germany last Sunday.

Most of the predictions about a house-price "meltdown" after a Labour victory are driven by fears of high interest rates, rather than high taxes, under Labour. But, while Labour's plans for punitive taxes on the rich have been spelled out, it is pure guesswork whether interest rates would rise or fall if John Smith moved into 11 Downing Street.

The prospects for British interest rates will depend mainly on the decisions made in Frankfurt by the Bundesbank. The chances are that interest rates there will not start to fall at least until the autumn. But given the political uncertainty in Germany, France and Italy, there seems no reason why Britain should have to increase its premium over German rates just because it joins the club of European nations without a clear majority government.

If interest rates are taken out of the picture, as more or less outside Britain's control, the potential impact of a Labour government on the housing market can be reduced to two opposing forces.

On one hand there will be sharp reductions in the disposable incomes of affluent professionals and managers. These are bound to hit the entire property market in London and the South-East, as well as undermining the value of high-priced properties and second homes in the rest of the country. The average new mortgage in London

is £60,000 and the average income of borrowers is £27,000. That compares with a national average mortgage of £44,000 and an average income of £21,000. More striking still is the contrast between the number of borrowers with incomes of over £40,000 — 15 per cent in London against a national average of only 6 per cent. Somebody earning £40,000 would lose £1,700 of disposable income under Labour's tax proposals, equivalent to the cost of servicing a £20,000 mortgage.

The idea that the impact of such large losses in income will be confined to the high-priced properties seems unrealistic. When prices fall in one part of the market, the effect is bound to trickle down.

Fortunately, there may be an opposite force pushing from the bottom of the market. A Labour government could give a boost to first-time buyers. This should be due less to Labour's explicit income redistribution than to the general macroeconomic impact of its policies.

Most of Labour's income redistribution will go into pensions, which will obviously do nothing for first-time buyers. However, most independent analyses of Labour's policies suggest that it would accelerate economic growth and reduce unemployment.

Since fear of unemployment and the general sluggishness of the economy is probably a bigger factor in holding back the housing market than either interest rates or taxes, a Labour government would benefit the market if the economic models turned out to be right. The models also suggest that wages would grow faster under Labour. If true, this could give housing a vital boost.

	Average house price £	Average advance £	Average income of borrowers £	% loans to first time buyers
Northern	46,389	34,111	17,400	38
Yorkshire & Humber	52,943	37,383	18,063	42
East Midlands	57,277	40,614	19,037	48
East Anglia	63,760	45,189	20,382	45
Greater London	88,368	60,032	27,005	54
South East (excl GL)	79,768	52,965	25,525	46
South West	68,322	44,884	20,850	42
West Midlands	60,578	41,428	19,487	43
North West	55,049	38,595	18,603	46
Wales	51,414	36,487	18,306	50
Scotland	48,910	35,831	18,637	40
Northern Ireland	37,197	27,657	17,125	52
United Kingdom	63,926	43,956	20,699	45

Source: The Building Societies Association and Department of the Environment

## What the experts predict after poll

Rachel Kelly finds evidence that a Tory victory would be the best outcome for a recovery in the property market

### Housing analyst

John Wrigglesworth, UBS Phillips and Drew

"If the Tories win the election, we expect a reduction in base rates by at least 1 per cent, which will be the key to recovery. But fears of unemployment will mean that house prices will not start recovering until the middle of the year after falls of 4 to 5 per cent.

"Labour's tax plans are bad news. People in the higher income bracket will put off buying, so there will be a disabling effect at the top end. But only about 10 per cent of mortgage borrowers are top-rate taxpayers and claims that the market will collapse are exaggerated.

"Our forecast is that interest rates will rise 0.5 per cent if Labour is elected. As a result, prices could easily fall by another 5 per cent this year but there could still be a recovery next year. If the City reacts badly and interest rates rise 2 or more per cent it will be a devastating blow."

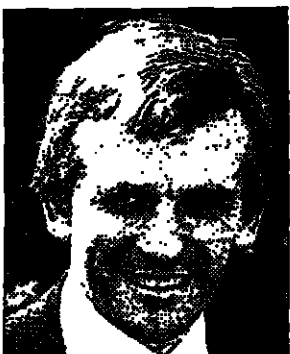
### Estate agent

Patrick Ramsey, senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley

"If the Tories win, there will be an initial surge of activity from vendors and purchasers who have been holding back until after the election. This will be followed by a steady market recovery.

"There is nothing to stop prices falling by 10 per cent under a Labour government."

### Building industry



David Holliday, president of the Housebuilders Federation

"Eighty per cent of people are going to be better off under the Labour tax regime. The bottom end of the market will therefore move forward again quite quickly. The top end of the market will be badly hit."

### Building society manager

David Blake, group head of corporate affairs manager, Woolwich building society

"A Tory win would immediately remove people's uncertainty on their personal finances. The housing market should begin to show signs of recovery shortly after the election.

"Labour's tax plans would cause a redistribution of income that would do little to stimulate demand at the lower and mid sections of the market while reducing demand at the upper end. Overall this would result in weaker market activity than under the Tories."



Housing assault: Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, claimed yesterday that Labour would have to put up interest rates

## Heseltine leads onslaught on Labour economic plans

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S policies would cut take-home pay and push up interest and mortgage rates, Michael Heseltine said yesterday. "Labour would stop home buyers trading up, frustrate the ambitions of first-time buyers and slash consumer spending through much higher mortgage payments."

"A Kinnock government would have to put up interest rates because the financial markets don't trust Labour. On average, a family's mortgage would go up by £47 a month. And at the same time the value of their home would fall. That means less money in people's pockets, which means less spending. That means less demand for industry's products, which means less work for industry and job losses — higher unemployment under Labour."

Mr Heseltine's assault was part of a Conservative effort to brand Labour as a party that would wreck Britain's hopes of coming out of recession. He quoted a report from the National Council of Building Material Producers which predicted that a Labour victory and the associated increases in taxation would

"hold back house price stabilisation" and deter first-time buyers.

He added: "Behind this statement lay a powerful and damaging analysis of the impact of Labour's economic plans on the housing and construction markets. In 1993, the construction industry's expert panel expects 160,000 private housing completions under a re-elected Conservative government as compared to only 100,000 under Labour."

"Turning to housing starts: under a Conservative government the construction industry expects 155,000 starts in 1993, compared to just 100,000 under Labour. The devastating result would be that over 20,000 fewer houses would be built in 1992 under a Labour government and well over 40,000 fewer homes would be built in 1993. Overall, the industry itself predicts that Labour's policies would cost the construction industry £4 billion and up to 100,000 jobs."

Mr Heseltine went hell for leather after his party's opponents, insisting: "A Kinnock government would take Britain's economy on a headlong

dive to disaster. Labour's policies would devastate the housing market and shove up interest rates, throttling the recovery."

John Major accentuated the positive, hailing a Dun and Bradstreet survey which showed business confidence rising and quoting poll evidence that four out of five businesses believed the economy would improve if the Tories were re-elected. Mr Major told the party's daily news conference in London: "The economic circumstances are right and recovery is on the way."

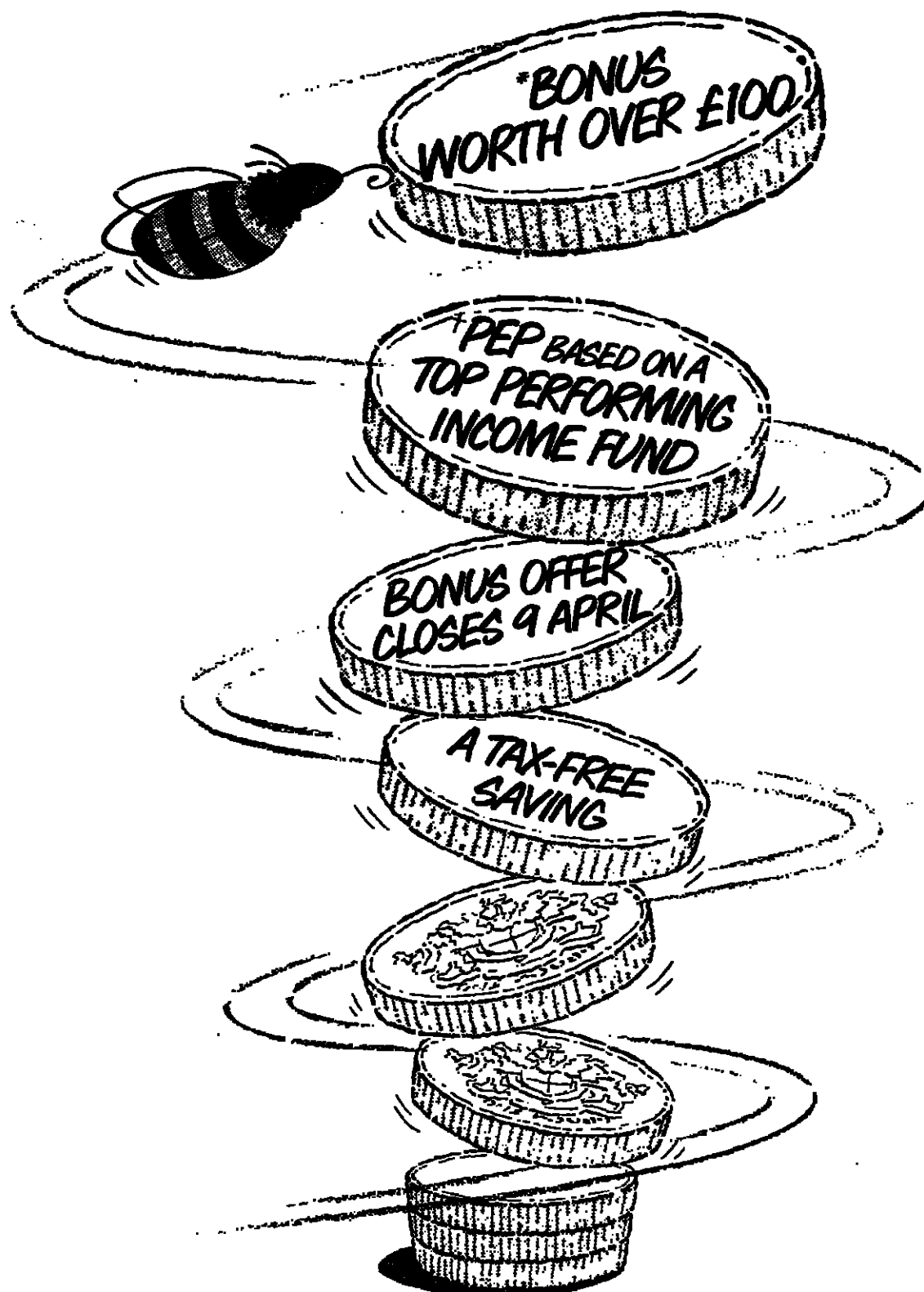
Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, repeated the charge that Labour's manifesto spending plans were unaffordable without swinging tax increases. The manifesto plans, he said, would cost the equivalent of 12.5p on the basic rate of income tax. "Labour would bring high taxes for everyone. High taxes," he added, "would stifle incentives, destroy confidence and kill the recovery stone dead."

Mr Major concluded: "The return of a Conservative government this Thursday is essential for recovery."

\*PEP—N&P UK Income Fund—First place in the Mirocopol Unit Trust UK Equity Income sector for 1991 for Ten Year Performance to end 1991. Source: Mirocopol offer to bid net income reinvested, 11/2/1/92. N&P UK Income Fund (formerly Key Income Fund). The levels and bases of taxation can change and the value of tax relief depends on individual circumstances. The Society is an appointed representative of N&P Life Assurance Ltd and N&P Unit Trust Management Ltd, which are regulated in the conduct of investment business by SIB. Consequently, we can only advise upon the life assurance and pension products of N&P Life and the unit trust and PEP products of N&P Unit Trust Management Ltd. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND THE INVESTOR MAY NOT GET BACK THE AMOUNT INVESTED. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

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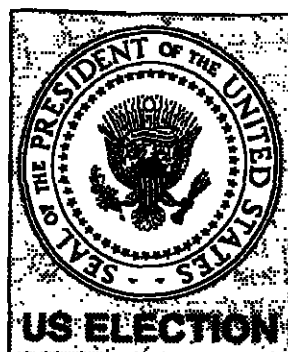


# Clinton banks on New Yorkers to seal nomination

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Democrat leaders watched anxiously yesterday for the first results from the New York, Wisconsin and Kansas primaries. Wins for Bill Clinton would mean a clear road to the presidential nomination for a candidate who many think unelectable. Any stumblings by the front-runner, especially in New York, could open the way for new candidates to enter the race. But decisions on how and who would have to be made fast.

Early exit polls showed Mr Clinton leading in all three states but with Paul Tsongas, whose name was on the ballots even though he did not campaign, scoring heavily among Jewish voters in New York. Pollsters predicted that, with black votes following Jesse Jackson's lead into the Jer-



ry Brown camp, the result could be close.

In the Clinton camp the view was that, with more than half the necessary delegates won even before New York, the victory was already theirs. Only a "maximum scandal" could take it away from them, one adviser said. The cam-

paign in New York, where 244 delegates were at stake, was the most important for a month. But, although it was fun for New Yorkers to see Mr Clinton and Mr Brown humiliated by the media, the forecast turnout was still low. Pundits argued that this could be used as an additional reason to pull Mr Tsongas out of retirement or to draft a senior figure who had not fought in the primaries.

It would be hard, however, for those perennial non-candidates, Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Al Gore, Congressman Richard Gephardt and Mario Cuomo, the New York governor, to get their names on the remaining ballots. Although with goodwill and a good legal team anything may be possible, even though the filing deadlines have past.

It would be still harder to explain to the American people why, in this year of the outsider, when professional politicians are as popular as child-molesters, the people's primary choice had to be supplanted by someone who chose not to submit himself to the voters' scrutiny.

"Amen to that," said a young Italian-American after voting in Greenwich Village yesterday. He said he had voted for Mr Brown but was sure that neither of the choices on offer could beat George Bush in November. Many influential Republicans are not so sure about that. Using a rule-of-thumb that two-thirds of dissatisfied voters vote against the incumbent president and three-quarters of satisfied voters vote for him, Mr Bush is not safe. Some two-thirds of the electorate think that the country is heading in the wrong direction — the figure that probably matters more and explains more than any other.

Mr Brown appealed to the strong sense in America this year that the whole system is rotten and needs rebuilding. His final campaign call in Brooklyn on Monday night was: "Take it back, America, take it back." Fewer agreed with his solutions than with his analysis. While supporters waited for his appearance at rallies they listened to Sixties poets and talked about the newly opened "old-style" baseball stadium in Baltimore where fans can pretend that the Fifties never finished.

Mr Clinton formed his final appeal around the message that he had given "a lifetime of commitment and service". His aim was to assure voters that the adulterous draft-dodger with an extremist wife is a parody created by the tabloid press; and that "the real Bill Clinton" is the man to win back the White House for the Democrats.

Latest details, page 1  
Verse and worse, page 16

## US halts aid to Peru and recalls official mission

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

AMERICA has suspended an aid programme worth more than \$250 million (£143 million) to Peru and denounced President Fujimori's seizure of power as a "regrettable step backwards" for democracy in the region.

"The United States calls for the full and immediate restoration of constitutional democracy, which must include immediate freedom for those detained," Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said.

As a further sign of anger, an American diplomatic mission that arrived in Lima only hours after the coup was recalled yesterday. Argentina also offered asylum to Alan Garcia, the former president, yesterday.

In an emergency meeting, the permanent council of the 34-nation Organisation of American States decided to call a meeting of Latin American foreign ministers "in a matter of days" for a discussion on what further measures can be taken against President Fujimori. State Department officials are particularly concerned that the presidential coup cripples American efforts to combat the drug trade in Peru, the world's largest producer of the coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine.

Police armed with guns, clubs and tear gas stopped an attempt by the Peruvian Congress to meet in defiance of President Fujimori on Monday. Lima was mainly calm yesterday and military vehicles had been withdrawn from most of the streets. But tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and soldiers still stood guard outside Congress, the Palace of Justice, and other judicial buildings.

The presidents of both houses of congress were under house arrest. A Peruvian journalist, Gustavo Gorriti, correspondent of the Spanish daily *El País* and one of Peru's foremost experts on political violence, also remained in government custody after his arrest. The military command said that Señor Gorriti had been arrested with classified defence documents.

On Monday evening, members of the Peruvian congress had tried to meet at the offices of the Peruvian Bar Association. Their goal, said conservative senator, Manuel Moreyra, was "to go into session and declare the presidency vacant". Under Peru's democratic constitution, written and approved at the end of a military dictatorship in 1979, congress can accuse the president of sedition or moral incapacity and vote him out of office.

One radio station has been closed down, and Luis Casas, a journalist from *Si*, a weekly, said his publication had been shut and its files taken. Desperation may have helped convince most people to accept the coup. More than 90 per cent in Lima have no steady job. The legal minimum monthly wage is the equivalent of \$75, but the cost of living rivals America. In addition to political violence by Shining Path guerrillas, common crime has shot up.

As the excited youths jostled forward.

Foreign ministers from seven Arab League countries gathered at the organisation's headquarters in Cairo in an apparently doomed effort to find a compromise. None held out much hope of a breakthrough at this late stage, particularly after the demonstration in Tripoli.

Amr Moussa, the Egyptian foreign minister, said: "There are many proposals under discussion, but they all fall within the framework of security council resolutions. The aim of the (Arab League) committee is to contain the situation, confirm the Arab position opposing terrorism, solve the problem in the framework of international sovereignty and provide a solution which all parties will agree to."

The Tripoli demonstration appeared to be an attempt to show that Libyans stand with gas as the excited youths jostled forward.

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is in his anger at the UN decision last week to impose arms, air and diplomatic sanctions on Libya unless two Libyans, suspected of placing a bomb aboard the PanAm jet that exploded over Lockerbie, were handed over for trial.

Surrounded by Libyan and Russian bodyguards as he entered the hotel's marble lobby, Mr Petrovsky could say only that he planned to stay until tomorrow. Russian diplomats said he hoped to meet Colonel Gaddafi.

Libyan police and soldiers cordoned off the streets behind the hotel for the remainder of the day. For the UN envoy it was a reminder of how difficult a mission he faces as he attempts to seek a compromise with the Libyan leader to head off the sanctions, scheduled to go into effect next Wednesday.

Earlier, Mr Petrovsky had remained optimistic. "I deeply believe that even at this stage there is still an opportunity to overcome the crisis and find a solution through the security council," he said.

But there is little sign that Colonel Gaddafi is in any mood to hand over the two suspects, both Libyan intelligence agents. He has been silent about Mr Petrovsky's visit and Libyan newspapers ignored his arrival.

Libyans are nervous that sanctions will make life far more difficult and hope that some solution can be found. "What do you think? Can the Soviets help us? A Libyan engineer said over coffee in Green Square at the centre of Tripoli. "All we want to do is live in peace and get on with our own business; we want nothing to do with politics."

Marie Colvin is on the staff of *The Sunday Times*.



Business and pleasure: at the autumn fashion show in New York, a model, left, provides a feminine parody of "power-dressing". She wears a navy pin-stripe ribbed wool jersey blend

three-piece suit with bustier and skirt to calf-length, over a long-sleeved white blouse, from Gordon Henderson's collection. From the Perry Ellis collection, also at the New York au-



tumn fashion show, a stylishly primitive look: the model wears a revealingly cut leopard print halter-neck top and a short skirt decorated with long fringes.

## Gloom in Arab capitals deepens as protests greet UN envoy in Libya

FROM MARIE COLVIN IN TRIPOLI AND RICHARD BEESTON IN CAIRO

AS ARAB League foreign ministers met in Cairo yesterday in search of a face-saving solution for Libya over the Lockerbie confrontation, Vladimir Petrovsky, the United Nations envoy, was forced by sit-in students to halt in his official car about 100 yards from his Tripoli hotel.

He sat expressionless in the car as about 100 students, blocking the drive of al-Mahani hotel, looking out over Tripoli harbour, shouted: "The UN is finished," and some anti-American slogans.

His police motorcycle escort waited 15 minutes before moving to break up the youths. Mr Petrovsky and his aides were ushered inside as several hundred other students, chanting and waving placards, marched up the corridor. Soldiers, perhaps fearing a repetition of last week's violence when the Venezuelan embassy was sacked and burnt, fired off rounds of tear

gas as the excited youths jostled forward.

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Marie Colvin is on the staff of *The Sunday Times*.

## Malawi is asked to free trade unionist

London: Britain yesterday called for the immediate release of the human rights crusader and South African union chief, Chakufwa Chihana, who was arrested in Malawi on Monday.

The Foreign Office yesterday raised the matter with Malawi's High Commissioner in London, and is likely to issue a demarche with European Community partners.

"We had forewarned the Malawi authorities prior to his return that we expected him to be treated properly," the Foreign Office said.

Mr Chihana, aged 52, the secretary-general of the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council, has been critical of Dr Hastings Banda's government and its human rights record. He was detained by police on arrival in Lilongwe from Johannesburg.

## Links agreed

Abidjan: Ivory Coast and South Africa are to establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level. Ivory Coast is the first black African nation to accord Pretoria full diplomatic recognition since President de Klerk began scrapping apartheid laws. (Reuters)

## Premier named

Bangkok: General Suchinda Kraprayoon, Thailand's supreme military commander, was named as prime minister, a document issued by the palace said. Crowds gathered to protest against the appointment of a non-elected prime minister. (Reuters)

## Flight planned

Peking: China plans to launch a manned spacecraft by the year 2000, the New China News Agency said. Peking hopes to develop a space station to serve as an orbital laboratory as well as a mission control centre for manned flights. (Reuters)

## Official injured

Hong Kong: A man injured two police officers, a government official and a contract worker with a meat cleaver as the government tried to evict his family and other residents from Hong Kong's Walled City ahead of the demolition of the lawless enclave. (AFP)

## Coin minted

Sydney: Australia has launched the kookaburra, a 2.2lb silver coin, delayed twice to build up enough stocks to meet an expected flood of orders. The coin, named after the Australian kingfisher, will be worth about \$83.73. (Reuters)

## Kiev sent aid

Taipei: Taiwan's medical aid to Ukraine includes 100,000 extra-large condoms, state television said. The "American and European-size" condoms are 4in longer than Taiwanese condoms. The aid, worth \$18,850, was flown directly to Kiev. (Reuters)

## PEOPLE

### Boesky sues for alimony

Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street speculator who served two years in prison for insider trading, is suing his wife for \$1 million a year (\$571,000) in alimony, the *New York Post* reported. The case was filed in civil court last month asking \$20,000 a week for interim financial support for Boesky, the paper said. Seema Boesky sued earlier this year to end the couple's 30-year marriage.

The car maker John DeLorean and Howard Weitzman, the man who defended him in his drugs trial ten years ago, have reached a friendly settlement over fees the lawyer claimed that he was owed.

The American vice-president Dan Quayle will be among guests attending a ceremony in Tokyo next month to mark the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion from the United States to Japan.

Mother Teresa has told Pete Wilson, the governor of California, that Jesus would have forgiven a convicted killer who is scheduled for execution this month, and suggested that he do the same. Robert Alton Harris is due to die in the gas chamber on April 21 for murdering two teenagers.

## Mines litter road to peace in Cambodian hinterland

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN RUNDAS, CAMBODIA

TWO uniformed men were standing on a road planted thick with landmines. One officer bowed slightly, extended his arm and said to the other: "After you." The second insisted: "No, please, after you." The scene was like an old music hall routine.

Deserted Rundas is a strange venue for farce. The players were unusual too, a Khmer Rouge general and a colonel in the Phnom Penh regime's army, bitter foes now trying tentatively to work

together in harmony. They had just shaken hands in this frontline village on Highway 12 in central Kompong Thom province, where continued fighting has delayed the first deployment of troops of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, slowing implementation of a UN peace plan.

The Khmer Rouge had attacked Rundas and planted the mines, but had been driven out. Now Phnom Penh troops were trying to de-mine

this key road. Almost every time they exploded one of the Chinese-made devices the Khmer Rouge began shelling from surrounding forests. Brigadier General Chu Chin, a commander in the Khmer Rouge 616 division, was accompanying a small UN reconnaissance party to see whether a company of 195 Indonesian troops now in the provincial capital, 22 miles to the south, could be deployed to separate the two forces. Clearly, with no meaningful ceasefire in effect, no deployment was yet possible.

Colonel Kol Vay, the Phnom Penh commander here, told the Khmer Rouge general: "The mines were planted by people on your side. Please walk in front of me and show me where they are." The general replied: "They were placed by another of our division, the 802nd. I don't know where they put them, so I would rather not walk ahead. After you."

Colonel Kol Vay said later: "The Khmer Rouge killed ten of my family members and this is the first time I shook hands with one of them. But we are all Cambodian brothers, and I think we can work together." He said that, without interference, the road to Preah Vihear province, now cut off, could be cleared in ten days. If the Khmer Rouge continued to shell, or to plant new mines, it could take three months.

calls the enforced eviction of Muslims living in the Burmese state of Arakan. Dhaka claimed up to 170,000 Muslim refugees from Arakan have crossed into Bangladesh since December. Rangoon claimed they were illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

U Gyaw said his government was processing a list of names supplied by Dhaka of 37,000 people who claim to have legal residence papers in Burma. The figure tallied with Rangoon's own census. U Gyaw claimed that up to half a million Bangladeshi nationals were living illegally in Arakan state.

OHN Gyaw, the Burmese foreign minister, has said his government could take back up to 37,000 Muslim refugees — those who are considered legal residents — of an estimated 100,000 who have fled to Bangladesh. But he rejected United Nations intervention or international pressure to solve what he insisted was a bilateral immigration issue.

Bangladesh is awaiting the results of a fact-finding mission to Burma by Jan Eliasson, the UN undersecretary-general, before it moves for a resolution in the UN to urge Burma to stop what Dhaka



Mandela: allegations a "rehash of gossip"

### Link with murder is denied

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela yesterday rejected allegations that she was involved in the murder of a prominent Soweto doctor three years ago as a "rehash of gossip" aimed at harming her and the African National Congress (Gavin Bell writes).

She said similar insinuations were dismissed by the Supreme Court in Johannesburg during her trial on kidnap and serious assault charges last year. Noting that her appeal against a six-year prison sentence was pending, she said the sub-judice rule had been ignored to her prejudice.

Saint became sinner  
L&T section, page 5

## Iran embraces Thatcher's ideas on economic reform

Tehran's revived stock exchange is a symbol of the revolution sweeping financial life under a pragmatic government, Christopher Walker writes

cent since the market regained the acceptability it once enjoyed under the Shah.

"We never actually closed, but after the Islamic revolution, the volume of business was so small we did not function," said Mr Nejhad. "Things are now so busy, we are moving to a much bigger new building in six months and planning to introduce full computerisation."

At first glance, the main differences in the exchange from those in the Far East, from which it is modelled, are the absence of ties — still regarded as an unacceptable sign of bourgeois decadence — new technology, and the veils worn by all women.

Iran's mullahs are among those who have profited from the stock boom and the new spirit of entrepreneurship. Recently, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader, went so far as to warn brash clerics bidding too lavishly to abandon their expensive homes and BMWs or risk losing the trust of the people.

Deregulation and privatisation have been at the core of President Rafsanjani's attempt to rescue Iran's centrist economy and, earlier this year, shares in the ten main motor manufacturers

were put up for sale. Western diplomats say the controls are being dismantled much faster than expected.

Apart from parliamentary opposition to the liberalisation, there have also been violent protests. Late last year, there were mysterious fires in the Tehran bazaar. Slogans such as "Hashemi Shah" and "death to the anti-people regime of Rafsanjani" began to appear.

At the stock exchange, ordinary people as well as the nation's elite and its merchant classes are among those now buying shares. "The enthusiasm to buy shares is so great we are going to set up a system for brokers' offices to be established in the main provincial cities as well as the capital," said the impeccably dressed Mr Nejhad. "At present, the only way people there can buy shares is through the banks."

Other signs of the changes in society being encouraged by the pragmatists have been an upsurge of English language teaching and a move towards setting a realistic exchange rate for the rial. Gillette, the razor manufacturer, has returned but shares of foreign companies cannot be quoted on the exchange.

just in time



# Germany's far right leaders fall out days after poll victory



Schönhuber: rude about DVU leader

STUNG into action by the unexpected success of the far right in Sunday's state elections, leaders of Germany's main political parties meet next week to try at last to agree detailed methods of speeding up the cumbersome vetting procedures for asylum seekers pouring into the country at the rate of more than 1,000 a day.

An outline plan for collecting all refugees in centralised camps and dealing with their cases in a maximum of six weeks was agreed last October, but it is still collecting dust on the Bundestag shelf because of bickering between the parties.

According to the plan, an accelerated process will make it possible to expel those without political grounds for asylum before they establish roots in Germany. Under the present system, vetting can take more than a year, at the end of which time it is virtually impossible to make anyone

Bonn finds its plan to vet the increasing number of refugees cannot be implemented quickly because it lacks the staff, Ian Murray writes in Bonn

leave, whether or not they are granted asylum.

The scheme envisages setting up about 90 camps throughout the country, where the paperwork, hearings and appeals would be dealt with like in a production line. Empty army camps could be used but the political argument over who pays for them has become complicated, allowing the far right to exploit the differences while the number of refugees grows. But it will be impossible to implement the scheme quickly even if it is introduced as planned from July 1. The number of civil servants required will have to be doubled, but first they will need training.

In the first quarter of the year 97,000 asylum seekers arrived and only 54,000 cases were dealt with. The queue is growing by about 15,000 a month and unless the staff is doubled overnight the backlog will take more than a year to clear, even if entry of all asylum seekers is stopped immediately.

German newspapers and politicians, recovering from the initial setback of Sunday's results, yesterday issued a warning against public panic that Germany was on the way to becoming another Nazi state. *Bild*, the mass circulation daily, posed the question dramatically on its front page, but concluded that this was not possible.



Bild asks whether another Nazi state is possible

Meanwhile Gerhard Frey, the leader of the German People's Union (DVU), that won 93,000 votes in Sunday's state election in Schleswig-Holstein, fell out with Franz Schönhuber, the leader of the

Republicans, who won 530,000 votes in Baden-Württemberg. Herr Frey said in Munich yesterday that he intended to put up candidates throughout Germany in the 1994 federal elections but re-

jected any idea of forming an alliance with the Republicans. Herr Schönhuber only owed his success to having once been a television personality, he said scornfully.

Herr Schönhuber was equally rude, saying that Herr Frey was nothing but a collector of Nazi memorabilia. The Republicans, he said, would have nothing to do with a party which was unconstitutional. The DVU has been under close scrutiny by German counter-intelligence for possible breach of the constitution which could lead to it being banned. The latest annual counter-intelligence report devoted four pages to the DVU, concluding that it was not dangerous.

Herr Frey, nevertheless, publishes a successful party newspaper. The circulation is secret but there is a 100,000 print order, making it the second-largest weekly newspaper after *Die Zeit*. A lively-looking tabloid called the

*National Zeitung*, it promises to tell its readers the truth. This week's truths include a lead story claiming that a high-level delegation from the World Jewish Congress went to East Berlin in November 1989 "to plot" against unification and that the chancellor is now having to pay world Jewry's bill.

There is a feature about the "criminal British air attack" on Lübeck. "The Allied mass murder of the German civilian population never had the least military importance," the paper said. The DVU was protesting at the British decision to raise a memorial to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, the man "who wanted to turn Germany into a desert".

Readers are told that Berlin is not going to be the capital and that criminals from all over the world now see Germany as an El Dorado. Classified advertisements allow readers to order silk battle flags of the Third Reich.

## Coalition will take weeks to form

# Christian Democrats seek new alliance

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian Christian Democrat party began seeking new allies yesterday after falling below 30 per cent of the vote in a general election for the first time in 46 years.

A definitive response from the main candidates to join a widened coalition with the Republicans and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) may not be forthcoming for weeks. Neither party is in a hurry to be seen to betray the voters who cast ballots on Sunday and Monday in favour of far-reaching reforms.

President Cossiga began a visit to the United States yesterday, much to the disgust of many Christian Democrats who partly blame him for the debacle because of his repeated attacks on the established political parties. Before he left Rome, the president said he may nominate his own candidate for prime minister if party leaders could not come up with a convincing government formula. There is speculation he might choose Giovanni Spadolini, the genial Republican former prime minister, who had

talks with Signor Cossiga on Monday.

Final results for the chamber of deputies gave the Christian Democrats 29.7 per cent of the vote, compared with 34.3 at the last election in 1987. The caretaker government of Giulio Andreotti, which groups Christian Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats, won 48 per cent of the vote and managed a majority of 16 seats in the chamber.

Political commentators agreed that this would not be sufficient to introduce political reforms or tackle the budget deficit and national debt, which threaten Italy's future in the European Community. "The lesson is that this government has been sacked," said Eugenio Scalfari, editor of *La Repubblica* newspaper. Among those who lost their seats was Guido Carli, the treasury minister, in Genoa, and in Turin, Guido Bodrato, the industry minister, and Renato Altissimo, the Liberal leader.

Umberto Bossi, the leader of the League of the North, which won 55 seats in the chamber, and Leoluca Orlando, the head of the new Rete anti-Mafia party, which won 12 seats, received the highest individual scores nationally. Signor Bossi displacing Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, from his long-held perch as the most voted candidate in Milan. Signor Craxi's party slipped from 14 to 13 per cent, the first Socialist decline in 16 years. His bid to be the next prime minister now is in question. In Naples, Alessandra Mussolini was elected, reflecting a revival in fortunes for the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, which won 34 seats.

The *Corriere della Sera* yesterday urged the Republicans, who won 27 seats compared to 21 held before, to rejoin the government on their own terms. "There are premises for honourable negotiation," the paper said. So far Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, insists he will not participate in another alliance unwilling to initiate change.

Achille Occhetto also dismissed the prospect of the PDS becoming a "spare wheel" for Signor Andreotti. However, *La Repubblica* said yesterday it believes both the Republicans and the PDS could be wooed into a "government for reforms" or "government of technicians" headed by a figure seen to be above party politics.

## Man in the news

# Bossi waits for call from Rome

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

WITH 55 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the League of the North has become overnight the fourth largest party in Italy and Umberto Bossi, its brash leader, is confident that the federalist movement will soon be asked to participate in a government.

"I think they will knock on our door," said Signor Bossi, who is one of only two parliamentarians elected for the league at the last election in 1987. "Keeping us in the refrigerator could be expensive as we are seething."

The 50-year-old former rock singer crowned his success by ousting Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, from his role as the politician with the most votes in Milan. The league is now the largest party in the Italian business capital with about 18,000 more votes than the Christian Democrats for the Chamber of Deputies.

Signor Bossi takes single-handed credit for the Christian Democrats losing nearly 5 per cent of their previous vote, or the support of about two million Italians. "Look what's happening to the Christian Democrats. Only we were able to defeat them."

The league's crude appeal to northern taxpayers tired of paying, as they see it, to subsidise the impoverished Mezzogiorno of the south struck a chord not only in Lombardy, Liguria and the Veneto region, where it has done well in the past, but also in Emilia Romagna, the southern boundary of the "Republic of the North" proposed by Signor Bossi, where on average, it had 10 per cent of the vote.

In Parma and Piacenza the league won more than 15 per cent and in Bologna, the capital of the Italian "red belt", it notched up 8 per cent, taken mostly from the former communist Democratic Party of the Left. "The north has chosen federalism and Europe. The south has chosen Africa

and fascism," Signor Bossi said, referring to the gains made by the Italian Social Movement in the south.

Paradoxically, the enormous gains made by the league probably herald a testing time for the scruffy senator who *La Repubblica*, with typical Roman snobbery, yesterday described as "looking perpetually as if he spent the night in a second-class railway carriage". He has always been strong on rhetoric and vague on what programme the league would try to implement if it had legislative clout.

If the devolutionists are seriously, as Signor Bossi says, "a party of government" temporarily in opposition, he may have to take a back-seat in bargaining with traditional parties to more thoughtful leaders such as Gianfranco Miglio, the ideologue of the league movement, who is an authority on constitutional law.



Lost for words: Arnaldo Forlani, the Christian Democrat leader, trying to explain to reporters yesterday the setback his party suffered in the polls

## Army to act as buffer in Moldavia

Bezdary, Moldavia: Andrei Kozhev, the Russian foreign minister, received a hero's welcome yesterday when he welcomed Russian-speaking separatists of a peace plan to end Moldova's ethnic conflict.

Mr Kozhev, who was visiting the breakaway Transnistria region after attending peace talks between Russia, Moldavia, Ukraine, and Romania in Kishinev, the Moldavian capital, on Monday, said former Soviet troops in the republic would act as a buffer in the fighting.

Mr Kozhev's announcement ran contrary to other reports. A Moldavian foreign ministry spokesman had said that the ministers at the peace talks had considered using Ukrainian troops as buffers rather than the Russian-controlled 14th Army. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin speech paves the path to reform

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA's reformist government appeared to be out of trouble yesterday and well-placed to embark on further economic change, after a rousing speech to the Russian Congress by President Yeltsin and a short, sharp reminder of the alternatives to reform from Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy premier.

Congress deputies are likely to approve reforms with a series of qualifications, none of them significant. The government's opponents will attempt to strip Mr Yeltsin of the special powers he was granted last autumn, in particular the power to appoint the government, and will try to enhance the role of parliament in the proposed new constitution.

Mr Yeltsin yesterday de-

fended his government's performance. He said that the rouble was strengthening against the dollar and accused the opposition of promoting a Ryzhkov-Pavlov option — after the last two, discredited, former Soviet prime ministers.

He received his most hostile reception since becoming president, but gradually won over his audience with pledges to reduce taxes on industry and agriculture, to include representatives of industry and business in government and to provide additional credits, but only on tough conditions. During questions he disclosed that Russia planned to start guarding its formerly open state border, with old Soviet republics, as soon as possible.

## Jet raids greet Bosnian statehood

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

YUGOSLAV airforce jets yesterday greeted the European Community's recognition of the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina with dawn raids on two southern towns. Local radio reported six dead.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, signalled his country's recognition yesterday of the independence of Bosnia as well as Slovenia and Croatia. In a satellite link from Washington with journalists in Brussels, Moscow, Kiev and Munich, Mr Baker said the US "would act in co-operation" with the European Community on Yugoslav affairs. "As you know, today the United States is recognising the independence of three states, formerly republics of Yugoslavia," he said.

The Yugoslav airforce said it had hit Citluk and Liscica in western Herzegovina, in response to attacks from Croatian forces there.

In spite of continued sporadic sniper fire, people emerged to inspect damage in Sarajevo and shop for bread and other essentials. Barricades remained in the predominantly Muslim part of town and gunmen checked all cars. Serb militias were also in control of a part of Sarajevo.

Bosnia remained in utter political chaos. The two Serb members of its presidency resigned along with its Croat prime minister.

There was little celebration of the republic's recognition, either officially or on the streets. Muhammad Cengic, a Muslim and deputy prime minister, said: "We welcome the EC's decision... at least it will discourage all those who want to break up Bosnia."

There were persistent reports yesterday that the Yugoslav army in Bosnia was in turmoil. Units in Banja Luka and eastern Herzegovina, including the airforce, were clearly in no mood to recognise Bosnian independence. But Mr Cengic said that one of the most senior generals in the republic had told him the army would acknowledge Sarajevo's authority.



## Brussels losing battle on fraud

Sarasbourg: A forthcoming report from the European Commission's fraud committee says the European Community is losing the battle against international fiddlers of its trade and farm subsidy rules (George Brock writes).

In the first six months of last year, customs fraud cases rose by one-third over the figure for the previous half year. The report makes no estimate of the proportion of the EC's £44 billion budget that ends up in the wrong hands. Unofficial estimates vary between 5 and 10 per cent of the amount.

The report paints a picture of harassed officials struggling against lax rules, national governments jealous of their own policing prerogatives, and cunning criminals.

## Delors defends EC treaties

Copenhagen: The Maas-tricht treaties on reform of the European Community cannot be renegotiated if Danes reject them in a referendum on June 2, Jacques Delors, the EC president, said. "One country cannot oblige the others to renegotiate," he told Danish television. Polls show many Danes are opposed to the treaties.

Yesterday in France, he told members of the European parliament that the EC should beware of admitting many new members. (AFP)

## Burden looms

Nicosia: British troops could face an extra burden in Cyprus after reports that two countries may withdraw from the UN peacekeeping force. Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN secretary-general, said he did not believe other countries would fill the gap.

## Mayor dies

Athens: Antonis Tristis, an architect and town planner who became mayor of Athens, has died of complications following a stroke. He was 55. He had been elected on government-backed promises to restore some of the city's former glory. (AP)

## Strikers beaten

Madrid: Police clashed with striking cleaners at Madrid airport, injuring three and permitting alternative crews to sweep two weeks' garbage. Television footage showed police using batons against the strikers, who were demanding higher wages. (AP)

## Envoy can stay

Amsterdam: The Netherlands has given Iraq's former ambassador in The Hague permission to stay in the country, a government official said. Safa Salih al-Falaki quit in January, citing repression under President Saddam Hussein. (Reuters)

## Parties sign up

Prague: Forty political groups have registered for Czechoslovakia's election on June 5 and 6, officials said. Campaigning begins on May 13. Parties must win at least 5 per cent of the vote in the proportional representation system to win seats. (Reuters)

## Girl sees visions

Stockholm: About 45,000 people have gone to a church in Sodertälje, south of Stockholm, in the past three weeks to be blessed by a 16-year-old girl who claims to have seen Jesus Christ, the Holy Mother Mary, and the Lebanese saint, Mar Charbel.

# Pravda returns to bite the hand that feeds it

Lenin is back on the masthead of the daily he founded, as it rails against Russia's rulers, Bruce Clark writes

government that it loves to hate. But if *Pravda* felt any gratitude, it was not showing it. In a vitriolic address to delegates at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the newspaper — which plans three editions a week — accused the country's present rulers of hypocrisy, greed, even treachery, in tones reminiscent — ironically — of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

"People who only a year ago were agitating for the abolition of all privileges for the party have now received

luxurious villas and settled into armoured-plated cars... behind whose darkened windows one cannot see the dreadful tenements, the decaying hospitals, the empty pharmacies, the ruined nursery schools," it thundered.

Lenin's stern gaze and bald pate are seen in reproductions of the medals earned by the newspaper for its loyalty to the communist cause. "Medals earned by generations of *Pravda* readers, who faithfully served the motherland with their pens in peace and war",



readers are reminded. One of the reborn paper's most unlikely features is a brief interview with Mr Yeltsin, in which he wishes the newspaper well but urges it not to add to public bitterness. "I think *Pravda* should be published, but it

should take the course of democracy," Mr Yeltsin opines, drawing a tart comment from the newspaper that it supports reform but not immiseration.

*Pravda* is not the only institution to be left stranded by the collapse of Soviet communism, as was made clear today by some juicy revelations about the \$200 million (£115 million) in state funds that the Soviet ruling party allegedly funnelled to friendly foreign movements in its final decade of existence.

*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, formerly the communist youth daily, which adapted to the modern world long before its sister paper, published a list of alleged donations decreed by the central

committee in January 1990. They ranged from \$1 million to the Portuguese Communist party, and \$900,000 for the Greek comrades to five-figure sums for smaller communist movements in such countries as Nepal, San Marino and Lesotho.

According to the paper, in the late 1980s, the Soviet communists provided campaign funds to electoral candidates in France, India and Pakistan as well as weapons for communists in Sri Lanka. Also reproduced is a memorandum urging the party to come up with more than \$600,000 to cover the debts of an Italian newspaper, or face the "extremely undesirable" prospect of the publication's antecedents coming to light.



Eight county council, owner of the photographs. However, Tennyson's published letters include one dated October 1849 to an Elizabeth Susan Mundy, which may lead to further discoveries of valuable photographs. The last works by Cameron to be sold went to a Japanese buyer for \$5 million. The sale of Julia Margaret's





## MAJOR'S FIRST TEST

The 1992 election is now too close to call. Evidence that Labour and the Conservatives are running neck and neck has raised the possibility of a hung parliament and given a prominence to the Liberal Democrats that belies their poll rating, which remains below 1983 and 1987.

The prospect of a hung parliament is not a result of the electorate wishing to see neither of the two main parties in power. In that case, the Liberal Democrats would win a majority of popular votes and doubtless form a government. A hung parliament is in prospect because support for the two main parties appears equally divided, a wholly different matter. Those who truly want Paddy Ashdown to decide for them whether John Major or Neil Kinnock should be prime minister can vote for Mr Ashdown. Everybody else should choose for themselves by voting Labour or Conservative.

The case for Labour is stronger than it has been at any time this decade. The party Mr Kinnock inherited from Lord Callaghan and Michael Foot was a wretched thing. Its leadership had split. It was sustained by a determination on the part of the big unions that it should not be superseded by the Liberals and Social Democrats. That determination was harnessed by Mr Kinnock in 1985 and a solid compact was formed: the unions and the party conference took a diminished role in the counsels of the party. In return Mr Kinnock would deliver an electable Labour team, new image, new faces, new policies, no questions asked.

Mr Kinnock has delivered, establishing himself as one of Labour's more remarkable political managers. He has done so at no small cost to his own credibility. Unilateral nuclear disarmament has been jettisoned, some would say just when some of its tenets have become plausible. Anti-Europeanism was also abandoned. Labour has dropped the union protectionism it once promised; indeed its spokesmen vie with each other in their machismo towards the unions. Nationalisation has disappeared from the manifesto. The shadow Chancellor, John Smith, has clothed his plans in unprecedented fiscal respectability, to the point of promising to raise taxes in the trough of recession. Even the commitment to economic and social planning, core of Labour's corporatism in the 1960s and 1970s, has been reduced to the oddity of a "national assessment".

In addition, Labour has responded to some of the grosser mistakes of the Thatcher years with policies that could revive some of the democratic life of the nation. The party's commitment to local and regional government, while vulnerable to its congenial disease of bureaucracy, is well-founded. So too is its desire to return to the true accountability of an uncapped local property tax (which should include business rates). Its policy on devolution is sound. Its proposals to reform the constitution in matters of freedom of information and human rights reflect a proper desire for consensus. Nothing alienated Tory support in the country more than Margaret Thatcher's confrontationalism in pursuit of her more radical reforms, not least the misguided ones in local government.

But these are all cherries picked from a larger pie. The question that Labour must answer is whether Mr Kinnock's new look is cosmetic or real, whether the party's structures are now robust against the pressures to which the Wilson and Callaghan administrations succumbed. Mr Kinnock will of course tell the electorate to try him and see. He protests that he has changed his mind on virtually all substantive items of his manifesto, not because pollsters tell him to but because he has genuinely changed his mind. To those former colleagues whom he excoriated for believing what he now believes and whom he drove into the wilderness, such words must sound unconvincing.

Mr Kinnock's spending plans are legion. *The Times*' own calculations estimate that these plans are just affordable assuming a steady rate of economic growth from today's low point. But if the Tories have found it near impossible to hold to their spending plans, how much harder will it be for Labour? A vast head of water has built up behind the Treasury dam. Mr Kinnock's spending ministers — Robin Cook at health, Jack Straw at education, Bryan Gould at local government, John Prescott at transport — are dam-busters to a man. If Labour really intends, as Mr Kinnock has said, to appropriate to the public sector the surplus of economic growth, that surplus will swiftly evaporate.

What is important here is not so much the explicit as the implicit. To what haven does a prime minister under pressure return in time of trouble? Lord Callaghan, in a famous incident in 1979, professed to the unions that he was "prostrate before you". Mr Kinnock might put it differently, but it will be these same public-sector unions to whom he has given gratuitous comfort during this campaign. It is they who want to return the public sector substantially to the terms and conditions obtaining in the 1970s, and who have forced Mr Kinnock's dam-busters to pledge as much. It is they who are strong on Labour's backbenches. It is they who sponsored Mr Kinnock's new model party. Will they give in first, or will the strain be felt on public borrowing, interest rates, the private sector and growth?

Mr Kinnock has no plausible answers to such questions. He smiles and says, trust me. He is a deeply conservative politician, made more so by the trimmings of the past five years. His vision is no longer Marxist in origin, more akin to that pronounced by Harold Wilson in 1963, a vague modernism allied to an equally vague egalitarianism, its edges hardened only in contrast to a tired Tory government. He would be a prisoner of his civil servants, a prisoner having to

adjudicate constant warfare between Mr Smith's Treasury and the spending baronies. Such adjudication must ultimately be rooted in ideology. Tory ideology states that private spending should take a rising share of the nation's wealth. Mr Kinnock wants the public sector to do so. That is the essential difference between them.

A Labour vote would thus not be a radical departure, a gamble on a new future for Britain. It would be a gamble on retesting an old theory, that public-sector consumption and investment can supply the fuel of capitalist economic growth. For all the abuse that Labour can heap on Tory attempts to find other fuel, Labour is merely returning to an exhausted pump. A vote for Mr Kinnock would be a vote for the Restoration, a retracing of steps to old verities by those whose special interests were threatened by the radicalism of the 1980s.

What would a Tory vote be? Any party that has been in power for 13 years has amassed a long record of trials and convictions, not all of them spent ones. Elections are not supposedly to punish past behaviour, but they are opportunities to review, preview and perhaps encourage *les aures*. The Tories must also overcome a widespread public mood for a change of government for the health of the system, to flush out the conduits of patronage, to refresh the parts of the body politic other reshuffles never reach.

The party under Mrs Thatcher was partisan in its appointments to public office. It justified this partially by the need to take on vested interests and push ahead with "supply side" reform. Yet it was expeditious in tackling the unions and subsidised industries, but proved hesitant in its own backyard. Health and higher education, broadcasting, the railways and public utilities, the civil service were either reformed too late for any benefit to be noticeable, or were not reformed at all, leaving only a resentment at what many professions saw as a lack of faith in their work. Labour, for better or worse, has found ways of expressing such faith and is benefiting accordingly.

A more serious obstacle for the Tories lies in the dominant issue at the election, the performance of the economy. Ever since its fateful entry into the European exchange rate mechanism in 1990, the government has seemed to lie recumbent in a straitjacket. There has been much debate over whether that straitjacket needed to be worn so tight. This newspaper and others have said no; more positive moves could have been made to expand consumption and mitigate recession. Now at last industry and commerce appear on the brink of recovery, but this may be too late for the government's salvation.

Can the Tories surmount these obstacles? The answer until recently appeared to be yes. Governments should not be changed for the sake of change if change is for the worse. Democracy in Britain would survive if Mr Kinnock were not to be prime minister next week. An election is to choose the best qualified leader and team for the next five years in a nation's history. It is not about fairness and certainly not about gambles. The central tasks facing government over this period are managing a return to economic growth, a reordering of Britain's relations with its European partners and improvement to the public services.

The Tory prospectus on the last is clear. It is to press on towards greater efficiency, tardily and painfully initiated in the health service. These moves are aimed partly at de facto or de jure privatisation, as with the prisons, the railways, some hospitals, some of the social services. Or they are aimed at using market mechanisms to improve internal incentives to give customers a better service. The toll of Labour's programme is the lack of awareness in its manifesto that anything was seriously wrong with the welfare state it bequeathed the Tories in 1979. Tory direction of public service can easily be criticised, but it has been set on the right course. To dismantle almost all of it, as Labour promises, would be inexcusable.

On managing recovery, Tory policy is equally simple: not to permit the overheating that occurred in 1988-9; not to impose excessive burdens on the private sector; to restrain public spending and to continue a policy of shifting the tax burden from taxes on income and savings to those on expenditure. There may be many a slip 'twixt cup and lip, but these are sensible policies requiring confident implementation. Labour rejects each one either in whole or part.

Integral to such rejection is the divergent approach of the two parties towards Europe. Labour appears to be committed to an extreme Delors position on European union, favouring the Maastricht social chapter, bigger regional and industrial subsidies and probably a single currency. Labour was fiercely opposed to the stand taken by Mr Major at Maastricht. Bluntly, Mr Kinnock would have signed anything Brussels put on the table. He maintains that the British economy will actually be strengthened by the various constraints of the social chapter and economic union, despite the growing doubts of other European states. Mr Kinnock has discovered in European corporatism a grander Jerusalem perhaps than Mr Smith will permit him to build within Britain. For his reactionary vision to guide the British presidency, and all of Europe, later this year is a grim prospect.

These policies, public sector management, the conduct of recovery and the approach to Europe, radically divide the two main parties. It is a divide of ideology and of collective interest rather than of individuals. But John Major is on the right side of that divide. He has emerged during his brief reign as prime minister as a likeable, competent and honest leader of his country. He deserves to be given a first vote of confidence at tomorrow's election.

## Party politics and the case for PR

From Professor Emeritus Ivor Gowan

Sir, Mr Heath is right to call for a parliamentary enquiry into the electoral system (report, April 4, later editions). I do not believe that most Conservatives reject the idea of proportional representation: on the contrary, they are only too conscious of the unfairness and inadequacy of our existing arrangements. Government by consent is generally held to be one of the main prerequisites of democracy, and we have manifestly not been getting this for many decades.

Unfortunately, in spite of the change to a single market at the end of the year, no one has yet been able to devise a system in which output tax paid in one country, say England, can be returned to an importer as input tax in another country, in this case Scotland.

It will therefore be necessary to institute the same VAT paperwork on all commercial transactions across the new frontier between England and Scotland, as is the case on the frontier between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

Since the economies of Scotland and England are far more closely integrated than those of any other European neighbours, these frontier posts will be the busiest in Europe.

Do Scots who seek independence, and I have considerable sympathy with this desire, realise that this formidable encumbrance to trade will arise?

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR GOWAN,  
17 Wyckwood Paddocks,  
Charbury, Oxford.

From Mr David Faull  
Sir, "Blackmail" is the word you use in your leading article of April 6 to describe Paddy Ashdown's insistence on a promise of proportional representation before deciding which of the main parties he would choose to make his post-election partner. It is an ugly word. It would surely be better applied to the Tories for threatening us with a socialist government if we do not vote for them while maintaining a voting system which they believe gives the electorate only that limited choice.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FAULL,  
Sedgemoor House, Church Lane,  
Westonzoyle, Somerset.

From Mr Michael S. Moss  
Sir, "Cold calling" as a means of selling fitted kitchens and double glazing is bad enough, but to be cold-called, as I was last night, by a political party quoting one of its own surveys in order to encourage tactical voting debases the whole democratic process. The Liberal Democrats should know better.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL S. MOSS,  
6 Kirklee Gardens, Glasgow.  
April 7.

From Mr Chris August  
Sir, Election campaigning has been full of discussion about electoral reform. I agree that proportional representation should be closely examined and not introduced as part of a deal between parties; but why is it that none of the politicians have suggested that such a fundamental change in election procedures should as a first step be decided by the electorate in a referendum?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS AUGUST,  
8 Trevanion Road, W14.

From Mrs Patricia M. Roberts  
Sir, What would proportional representation lead to but a hung parliament — in perpetuity?

Yours etc.,  
PATRICIA M. ROBERTS,  
12 Mansfield Terrace,  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

## Cost of restoration

From Lord Grantley

Sir, The interesting article by John Young on April 1 about the superb manor, Ightham Mote in Kent, invites certain comments by the owner of this house, Markenfield, equally moated and built in 1310 or 30 years earlier than Ightham Mote.

The structure of Markenfield is entirely limestone (other than a small amount of the crenellations restored about 1890, alas in sandstone) and is almost completely unaltered since its construction in 1310 apart from various inside alterations.

Mr Young reports that there is a restoration programme at Ightham Mote involving no less than £7,500,000. When I inform you that restoration of this house involved me in under 1 per cent of this amount including most helpful advice and

## 'Unloved' landmark

From Professor Gerald Dix

Sir, Could someone please point out to Craig Seton ("Bank offers to save unloved landmark", April 4) that the Rounda building in Birmingham to which he refers is cylindrical not spherical.

Definition apart, there is surely something to be said for retaining a building which has become a visual symbol of the city, even although it is no more like a "Coca Cola tin" than it is a sphere.

Yours truly,  
GERALD DIX,  
13 Friars Quay,  
Norwich.  
April 6.

## Off the rails

From Mr John McNally

Sir, Having spent a good deal of yesterday — Sunday — trying to return by train to London from the south coast, I now fully appreciate Mr Timothy West's letter (March 31) and can answer his question. BR refer to their mode of transport as a "service" rather than a train because for a large part of the journey it is not a train. It is a bus.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN MCNALLY,  
32 Finborough Road, SW10.  
April 6.

Business letters, page 25

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Pros and cons of devolution issue

From Mr A. C. B. Tidmarsh

Sir, As I understand it the proponents of an independent Scotland envisage that it should be a member of the EC. Since it is a condition of membership that member states should pay a proportion of VAT receipts to Brussels, it follows that Scotland would have to continue with this tax.

Unfortunately, in spite of the change to a single market at the end of the year, no one has yet been able to devise a system in which output tax paid in one country, say England, can be returned to an importer as input tax in another country, in this case Scotland.

It will therefore be necessary to institute the same VAT paperwork on all commercial transactions across the new frontier between England and Scotland, as is the case on the frontier between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

Since the economies of Scotland and England are far more closely integrated than those of any other European neighbours, these frontier posts will be the busiest in Europe.

Do Scots who seek independence, and I have considerable sympathy with this desire, realise that this formidable encumbrance to trade will arise?

Yours faithfully,  
TONY TIDMARSH,  
The White House, Dunley,  
Sturport-on-Severn,  
Worcestershire.  
April 5.

From Lord Kilmaine  
Sir, The prospect of devolution must pose a dilemma for peers of Scotland. If history is any guide, they will leave their seats in the House of Lords.

Will they meekly acquiesce to the precedent of doubtful legality by which some of their number helped to strip Irish peers of parliamentary rights, or will they campaign to keep their seats?

No doubt the Scottish lords will argue that they are peers of the United Kingdom, but so to this day are peers of Ireland. In fact the Scots will have a much weaker claim to continuing to sit in the Upper House; unlike Irish peers, most Scottish titles were not even created by an English monarch.

Yours faithfully,  
KILMAINE,  
Sheffield, Alcester, Warwickshire.  
April 5.

From Canon Carl Garner  
Sir, What a witches' cauldron of policies we are being offered! What could have been a vote on the major domestic issues of wealth and education and social care in a time of serious recession has been bedevilled by the introduction of massive constitutional issues.

Will the rise of nationalism in Scotland lead to the end of the United Kingdom? How much better to have pushed for greater integration of infrastructure between

grants from government bodies, involving replacement of a wall of the chapel which was bearing down ominously on the undercroft. I cannot but be bewildered at the difference of some £7,425,000.

Of course there are factors unknown to me, but I must question the quantum when you compare myself as an owner of fairly modest means to an authority such as the National Trust.

I have nothing but praise for the successful work of the National Trust of which my family are members: in fact my architect, Mr J. S. Miller of Harrogate, was recommended to me originally by friends connected with the National Trust.

Yours faithfully,  
GRANTLEY,  
Markenfield Hall,  
Ripon, North Yorkshire.  
April 3.

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux  
Sir, Clifford Longley ("Uncovering the secrets of the KGB prelates", April 4) asserts that KGB control of the Russian Orthodox Church never led to the betrayal of "its beliefs, its members or its friends".

Ask Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was denounced by his own bishop when the KGB was gunning for him. Ask Father Gleb Yakunin, now an elected deputy of the Russian parliament, whose betrayal by his own church leadership when he exposed religious persecution in 1965 facilitated the campaign against him, resulting in a ten-year sentence.

Or you could ask me. Patriarch Alexi I denounced me to the Arch-

bishop of Canterbury (Michael Ramsey) in 1966, and in 1992 the KGB still tries to dictate an agenda from an unquiet grave, with the Moscow Patriarchate designating those in the churches of the West with whom it will have dealings and blacklisting others.

Beliefs? No, the KGB did not alter the Nicene Creed, but it did use curriculum lectures to attempt to indoctrinate theological students, after having prevented the most zealous from joining a seminary in the first place.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX  
(Director),  
Keston Research,  
33a Canal Street, Oxford.  
April 6.

## Jewish identity

From the Director of the Council of Christians and Jews

Sir, The letter from Rabbi Dr Julian Jacobs (March 31) exemplifies the pain felt by Jewish people at overt attempts to claim that Jewish people can be converted to Christianity and still remain Jews.

It is difficult for Christians — and I write as an Anglican lay reader — to comprehend how threatened Jewish people feel by targeted proselytism. It seeks to marginalise their religion and to assimilate their culture. If successful, it would ultimately destroy Judaism.

The Council of Christians and

Scotland and England, bringing mutual prosperity to the North.

I was looking forward to change in those things that matter. The choice has been clouded.

Yours sincerely,  
CARL GARNER,  
Holywell Close,  
43 Holywell Hill,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.  
April 7.

From Mr David Shepherd  
Sir, For those of us in Scotland this is no ordinary general election. We have the stark contrast: Great Britain — or Scotland on its own.

There is no in-between, as Labour and the Lib Dems may claim. Their policies are but stepping stones to the ultimate destruction of the Union. In practice a "half-way house" would not last and in the meantime would raise taxes uniquely in Scotland for no sound reason.

The Scottish National party's promise is the real threat facing Scotland: a backward-looking policy of pointless self-destruction in pursuit of sentimental tartan egoism.

At this election, this very special election, there is only one party that stands unequivocally for Great Britain and the United Kingdom — the Conservative party. I will vote for it.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SHEPHERD,  
Annat, Rait, Perthshire.  
April 2.

From Mr R. S. Allen  
Sir, If this election results in a small Labour majority, it will be yet another case of a Conservative England bowing to the will of a Labour Celtic fringe. On this occasion that fringe will also provide a large proportion, if not the majority, of our new rulers.

How about home rule for England?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD ALLEN,  
Hazel Rough, Hartfield, Sussex.  
April 6.

From Mr Brian Lynch  
Sir, As a member of the United Kingdom for over 50 years (English branch), I hope that if Mr Kinnock offers a referendum on Scottish/Welsh devolution, and its consequences, we will all have a vote in it — if he gets the chance to, that is.

Yours etc.,  
BRIAN LYNCH,  
3 Marlborough Road,  
Brentwood, Essex.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer  
Sir, You say in your leader (April 6) on the Elgin Marbles: "If by freak of history the Stone of Scone was held abroad the Scots would rightly assert a claim."

Well, it is: it's in England.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,  
34 West End,  
Haddenham, Cambridge.  
April 6.

From Professor Emeritus P. Rhodes  
Sir, Although the American gynaecologist, Professor Gerson Weiss, may believe that Charlotte Brontë died not from hyperemesis gravidarum (morning sickness) but from Addison's disease (report, March 31), Mrs Gaskell records that "Martha... tried to cheer her with the thought of the baby that was coming". That seems conclusive enough, for women, even of last century, knew about early symptoms in pregnancy, especially the absence of menstruation and breast signs.

Obviously the hypothesis of Addison's disease cannot be ruled out, but that of pregnancy sickness seems still to be the more likely.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP RHODES,  
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,  
Oakham, Leicestershire.

bishop of Canterbury (Michael Ramsey) in 1966, and in 1992 the KGB still tries to dictate an agenda from an unquiet grave, with the Moscow Patriarchate designating those in the churches of the West with whom it will have dealings and blacklisting others.

Beliefs? No, the KGB did not alter the Nicene Creed, but it did use curriculum lectures to attempt to indoctrinate theological students, after having prevented the most zealous from joining a seminary in the first place.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX  
(Director),  
Keston Research,  
33a Canal Street, Oxford.  
April 6.

Jews opposes it, whether as an overt technique or hidden agenda. It is the opposite of dialogue and reconciliation, for which our organisation was founded by Archbishop William Temple and other distinguished religious leaders in the darkest days of the second world war.

Postscript: a personal reflection regarding the Bishop of Oxford's excellent article (March 31), "Can a Christian vote Tory?" I hope so. I try to be. And I do.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL LATHAM, Director,  
Council of Christians and Jews,  
1 Dennington Park Road, NW6,  
March 31.

## Justice abroad not seen to be done

From Mr E. W. Smith

Sir, I was distressed by the letter from the Foreign Office minister, Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd (March 28), attacking Mr Stephen Jakobi who had written to you (March 26) in his capacity as spokesman for Fair Trials Abroad.

Mr Jakobi is probably best known to the public as being the solicitor to my daughter, Karyn Smith, arrested with Patricia Cahill on a drugs charge in Bangkok, 21 months ago. Karyn is at present in prison in Thailand, and though the European Parliament has expressed "deep concern" that she was "wrongly convicted", it took a public outcry to get her any government support (reports, May 22, September 12, October 25, November 18 and 21, 1991).

Mr Lennox-Boyd argues that no representation can be made until the possibility of appeals has been exhausted and that this does not apply to any of the cases in which Mr Jakobi had "so far shown an interest". My daughter abandoned her appeal nearly a year ago. This single fact makes Mr Jakobi's point.

Yours faithfully,  
E. W. SMITH,  
46 Forewood Lane,  
Danson Wood,  
Solihull, West Midlands.  
March 28.

From Mrs Frances M. Benn  
Sir, On March 4, 1991, my son Christopher, an airline pilot, was arrested on a charge of rape, having been tricked off his British aircraft in Toulouse. He was told that there was an urgent telephone call for him; when he stepped off the plane, in order to answer it, he was arrested, handcuffed and taken off to Martinique under the most humiliating circumstances.

Christopher was put in jail for five weeks with a condemned murderer. No help was forthcoming for legal aid. Although not a wealthy woman myself, I was forced to find £35,000 in French francs to get him released on bail. The charge made against him has since been dropped, and he is now being held on a charge of "force and surprise".

My son had nothing but praise for the honorary consul in Martinique in the period immediately following his arrest: nor do I believe (as Mr Lennox-Boyd suggests is Mr Jakobi's belief) that the government should intervene "at whim" in other countries' legal procedures. However, I do believe that members of the EC should conform to international procedures with regard to extradition.

Christopher was arrested off British territory, by trickery. He is no fugitive from justice — he would have gone willingly to Martinique to clear his name — and his extradition from Britain could and should have been effected by the use of established procedures.

Why did the Foreign Office allow those procedures to go by default? Why did it not challenge the lawfulness of his arrest?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES BENN,  
Meadswood, Loddon Drive,  
Wargrave, Reading, Berkshire.  
March 30.

From Mr Raymond O'Malley  
Sir, TV "semi-biographies" have opened up depths of vulgarity that F. R. Leavis could never have imagined. Sunday's TV show (review, March 28) depicted Mrs Leavis as embezzler. She had good reason to be: when she married Leavis her family rejected her; some years later a single bomb of Hitler's killed the family. Mrs Leavis herself developed a fatal illness against which she fought bravely. Who could have escaped some bitterness in such circumstances?

I knew the family intimately from 1939 until the end and see the broadcast as an utter travesty of their relationship. Leavis was incomparably the greatest teacher who ever came my way.

Yours truly,  
RAYMOND O'MALLEY,  
23 Nighthall Avenue, Cambridge.  
March 30.

From Mr Graham Chainey  
Sir, The title of the BBC film about F. R. Leavis and "Q", *The Last Romantic* invites the question just how many last romantics there have been.

According to the title of his authorised biography (1948) Sir John Martin-Harvey was *The Last Romantic*. So, according to their own biographers, were Max Eastman (1978) and Queen Marie of Romania (1985). A television film in 1985 was called *Vladimir Horowitz: The Last Romantic*, while *The Last Romantic* is the title of a novel by Caroline Seebohm set in 1960s Oxford; not to mention W. B. Yeats. And you illustrated (*Life* & *Times*, March 31) the Barbican Gallery's 1989 exhibition, "The Last Romantics".

Seemingly yours,  
GRAHAM CHAINEY,  
17 Marine Parade,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 7: The Prince Edward today visited Dorset and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Dorset (the Lord Digby). His Royal Highness visited the Port of Poole and was entertained at luncheon on the m.v. Barfleur, subsequently visited Sowerby Limited, Poole, and opened their European distribution centre and headquarters.

The Prince Edward then visited various youth activities at the Beacon Centre, Mitchell Road, Canford Heath and the Musciff Youth Centre, Bournemouth.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 7: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, gave a lunch for supporters of the Trust.

The Princess of Wales attended a concert by "Black Voices" at the Church of St Stephen, Walbrook, London EC4.

This evening Her Royal Highness, President, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, attended the film premiere of "Hook" at the Odeon Theatre, Leicester Square, London W1.

Mrs Max Pike and Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited Staffordshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Sir Arthur Bryan).

Her Royal Highness this morning opened St Dominic's Court, the Coventry Churches Housing

Association's sheltered housing scheme in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was later entertained at luncheon by the President of the British Ceramic Manufacturers' Federation at Federation House, Stoke-on-Trent.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Portsmouth, Portsmouth Limited at London Road, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mrs Jane Stevens and Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon presented the English Tourist Board Car Parks Award at a luncheon given by the English Tourist Board at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this morning opened the Classroom Block and Community House at Birchfield Primary School, Trinity Road, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Midlands (the Earl of Aylesford).

This afternoon Her Royal Highness visited South Yorkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire (Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Neill).

The Duchess of Gloucester opened the University School of Clinical Dentistry, Sheffield, and later visited the Paediatric Unit of the Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montague Hospital, Doncaster.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

**British Journal of Hospital Medicine**  
The annual Student Elective Award was presented to Mr Samir Chhaya of Guy's Hospital Medical School, by Dr Trevor Bailey, Postgraduate Dean, University of Liverpool at a supper held at the Café Royal, London. Dr Jack Tinker, the Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Hospital Medicine, presided. Members of the Editorial Board and the Publishers were present.

### Dinner

**Lord Mayor of Westminster**  
The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Sir Leslie Porter were hosts at the annual City of Westminster reception and dinner held last night at the Banqueting House, Whitehall. Among those present were:

**The Chaplains' Conference**  
The 1992 Chaplains' Conference was held at University College, Oxford, on March 30 - April 1. The main speakers were the Bishop of Sherborne, Professor Keith Wainwright, Professor of Theology, Hulse, The Bar, and Canon Stephen Platten. Following the appointment of the Rev Peter Hullah to be Headmaster of Chesham School of Music, the Rev Andrew Clitherow, Chaplain of Rossall School, was appointed Chairman.

### Nuffield Council on Bioethics

The following have been appointed members of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics working party on genetic screening:



Passing clouds: a member of the RHS captures the beauty of a display of daffodils at the Spring Show

## RHS daffodils win a host of golds

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DAFFODILS feature strongly at the Royal Horticultural Society's spring show even though the regular Irish daffodil exhibitors are absent. There is an impressive display entitled All About Daffodils, staged by the RHS, which embraces species, hybrids, classification and propagation, all illustrated with cut blooms. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Ireland is represented, though, by Brian Duncan, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, who has staged a large gold medal display of novelty and exhibition daffodils, including pink, large-cupped and double flowered cultivars. Clive Postles Daffodils, of Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, and J Walker Bulbs, of Weston Hills, Lincolnshire, have also been awarded gold medals for daffodils. Broadleaf Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Somerset, are featuring a collection of dwarf and miniature daffodils bred by Alec Gray.

There are two refreshingly different exhibits at this show, one a collection of fritillaries staged by the RHS's Lily Group and Wisley Garden, Surrey, which has been

awarded a gold medal. It includes representatives of these bulbous plants with bell-shaped flowers from all over the world, including China, the Mediterranean countries, California and Britain, many of them having been collected by Maryn Rix. The pollination of the plants is fascinating; for instance, *Fritillaria recurva* from California, with orange and yellow chequered flowers, is pollinated by humming birds. Also on display is the pale yellow *F. pallidiflora*, used in medicine in China, and the very unusual *F. ferganensis* from Central Asia, which has green flowers, which scramble through shrubs by means of tendrils.

Creating much interest is an exhibit of plants collected from woodland mountain habitats in Western Sichuan, China, by James Compton, of Salisbury, Wiltshire. John D'Arcy, of Devizes, Wiltshire, and Maryn Rix, of Ashford, Kent. The star plant is *Corydalis fleucosa* in its different forms, first collected by the French missionary and naturalist Père Armand David in the mid 1800s. This hardy plant has clusters of beautiful sky-blue spurred flowers, produced from April to October.

The RHS daffodil show is also being held in the competitive classes. F C Postles, of Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, has won the Engleheart challenge cup for 12 cultivars bred and named by the exhibitor. One of his blooms, an all white large cup, was judged best bloom in the show. B S Duncan, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, has won the Guy Wilson memorial vase for six white cultivars.

Frost the weekend before the show ruined the blooms of many camellias, and this resulted in the spray division of the RHS main camellia show being poorly supported. However, many exhibitors entered the division for blooms and Mrs C Petherick, of St Austell, Cornwall, has won the Leonard's bowl for 12 blooms.

The Alpine Garden Society is holding its competition at this show. The Farrer memorial medal for the best plant in the show has been won by E N Fuller, of Wadhurst, with a specimen of *Dionysia revoluta*, a cushion-forming alpine completely covered with bright yellow starry flowers.

The show, in the Old Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, and the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, central London, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Major C.H.B. Halford and Mrs C.A. Vines**  
The engagement is announced between Major Humphrey Halford, 17th/21st Lancers, son of Mrs Elizabeth Halford, of Orchard Manor, and Mr M.C.S. Halford, of Nether Stowey, and Charlotte, daughter of the late Major J.B. Jenkins and of Mrs Burton Jenkins, of Monkscombe.

**Mr J.E.P. Hawker and Miss A.E. Ward**  
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Hawker, of Carnarvon, Bournemouth, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.R. Ward, of Topperville, Lissade, Cornwall.

**Dr J. Holbrook and Miss R.H. Macanagh**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mrs A. Holbrook, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.M. Macanagh, of Donaghadee, County Down, Northern Ireland.

**Mr M.F. Lykardopolis and Miss A.E. Goulas**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr F.P. Lykardopolis, of Athens.

**Greece and Mrs S. Lykardopolis**  
of London, W.8, and Alexandra, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N. Goulas, of Gstaad, Switzerland.

**Mr D.R. Moore and Miss N.J. Robinson**  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Moore, of Wigston, Leicestershire, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr Christopher Robinson, of Bures, Suffolk, and Mrs Hugh Temperley-Radford, of Petaugh, Suffolk.

**Mr S.A. Rose and Miss P.J. King**  
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs H.A. Rose, of Liphinst, Warwickshire, and Philippa Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A. King, of Pangbourne, Berkshire.

**Mr T.R. Ward and Miss F.T. Barras**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Dr and Mrs Haydn Ward, of Surrey, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Mr L.W.B. Barras, of Gouville, France, and Mrs G.M. Barras, of Ascot, Berkshire.

### Receptions

**Mr and Mrs Wallis Hunt**  
of Longbridge Mills, Wiltshire, gave a reception at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, EC4, on April 2, to celebrate the marriage in New York last year of their third son Timothy John to Tama, daughter of Dr Julian Janowitz, of Shutebury, Massachusetts, and Professor Phyllis Janowitz, of Ithaca, New York.

**Prospect Burma**  
Mr Miles Kingston was the principal guest speaker at a reception given by the Prospect Burma Educational Trust last night at Westminster School, Viscount Slim, patron, and Mr Alan Hall, chairman, received the guests.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, South-Down, 1783; Sir Adrian Bodd, conductor, Chester, 1889; Mary Pickford, silent film actress, "America's sweetheart", Toronto, 1893.

**DEATHS:** El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Eric Karl-Edel, poet, Nobel laureate (posthumously) 1931, Stockholm, 1931; Vassil Nijinsky, ballet dancer and choreographer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mougins, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, US army general, 1981.

**Abdication of King Zog of Albania, 1939. The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.**

### Appointments

**Mr Paul Timms**, head verger of Coventry cathedral, to be head verger of Southwark cathedral, in succession to Mr C. Clive McClelland, who becomes head verger of Winchester cathedral in June.

### Sir Eric Cheadle

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Eric Cheadle, CBE, DL, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on Friday, May 1, at noon.

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Telephone 071 481 4000

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

### BIRTHS

**BARTLEY** - On April 6th, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, to Carol (nee Wright) and her husband, a beautiful daughter, Louise Elizabeth, a little sister for Rebecca.

**BLACK** - On March 14th 1992 to Amanda (nee Hewitt) and Dominic, a daughter, Catherine Holly.

**CARTWRIGHT** - On April 2nd 1992, at the City Hospital, Nottingham, to Deborah (nee Savary) and Roger, a daughter, Rosie Joy.

**COLE** - On Monday April 6th, at the Alexandra Hospital, to Maria (nee Cooke) and Paul, a daughter, Charlotte Marie.

**ESKENAZI** - On April 1st, to Samuel Nissim, a brother for Lijana.

**HOBBSON** - On April 29th, to Amanda (nee Haddock) and Dominic, a sister for Ivo.

**MURPHY** - On March 31st 1992, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Jane and David, a daughter, Amy Louise.

**PROUDLER** - On April 4th, to Jane and Gary, a son, Henry George, a brother for Alan Edward.

**SHIELDS** - On April 5th, to Nicki and Tom, a son, Stanley.

**SWIFT** - On Sunday March 29th, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Rachel (nee Grey) and Steven, their first child, a daughter, Lydia Rose.

**WALLACE** - On April 4th 1992, to Kili, a son, Benjamin, a son, Alexander.

**WILSON** - On Sunday April 5th, at Leicester General Hospital, to Kevin and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Alice, their first child.

**WOLSTENHOLME** - On April 5th 1992, to Catherine and Andrew, a son, Arthur Charles Lewis, a brother for Ivo.

**WRIGHT** - On April 7th, to Sophie and Thomas, a daughter, Thomas, in Hong Kong, a daughter, Katharine Elizabeth.

### DEATHS

**MOTTELL** - On April 4th, Charlotte (Lottie), aged 93, after one day in hospital, beloved and loving mother, sister, daughter, and wife, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**GREENALL** - On March 15th 1992, Anne, Enquiries please telephone: 09481 2455.

**FERGUSON** - On April 7th 1992, peacefully at his home, Duncan (Duff) Fergusson, 65, beloved husband of Mary, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**FINCH** - On April 5th, after a short illness, Arthur Leonard, beloved and loving husband of Nancy, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**WILSON** - On Sunday April 5th, at Leicester General Hospital, to Kevin and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Alice, their first child.

**WOLSTENHOLME** - On April 5th 1992, to Catherine and Andrew, a son, Arthur Charles Lewis, a brother for Ivo.

**WRIGHT** - On April 7th, to Sophie and Thomas, a daughter, Thomas, in Hong Kong, a daughter, Katharine Elizabeth.

### DEATHS

**HAYMAN** - On April 6th 1992, after a brief illness, Peter, much loved and devoted father, brother, and grandfather, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**HOLLAND** - On April 7th 1992, S.W.C. Holland (Bill), peacefully at home in Dorking, Surrey, beloved husband of Jane, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**KING** - On Monday April 6th, Elton O.B.E. at Delaware House, London, aged 78, after a long and distinguished career in the City, and a life of love and devotion, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**LEWIS** - On April 6th, at his home, Normandy, Paris, a son, Norman, a brother for Ivo.

**MAUDE-ROSEY** - On April 5th 1992, peacefully at her home, Mrs Rosey Maude-Rosey, 82, beloved mother of Christopher and David, and grandmother of David and Lorna, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**MCNEILL** - On April 5th, at her home, Mrs McNeill, 92, beloved mother of Christopher and David, and grandmother of David and Lorna, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

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### DEATHS

**PILGRIM** - On April 6th 1992, after a brief illness, Peter, much loved and devoted father, brother, and grandfather, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**ROSSITER** - On April 6th, peacefully at home after a long illness, Mrs Rossiter, 82, beloved mother of Christopher and David, and grandmother of David and Lorna, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**ROSS** - On March 29th, peacefully at his home, Mr Ross, 65, beloved husband of Jane, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**TOTILL** - On April 6th, peacefully at his home, Mr Totill, 82, beloved husband of Jane, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**WELLS** - On April 5th, at his home, Mr Wells, 82, beloved husband of Jane, father of John and Robert, and brother of John and Robert, funeral service at 11.30am, 10th April, 13th St, London W1.

**WILSON** - On Sunday April 5th, at Leicester General Hospital, to Kevin and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Alice, their first child.

**WOLSTENHOLME** - On April 5th 1992, to Catherine and Andrew, a son, Arthur Charles Lewis, a brother for Ivo.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

**ANDERSON REEVE & COMPANY LIMITED**  
(In receivership)  
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS  
The following is a list of the creditors of the company who have been admitted to the list of creditors of the company for the purpose of the winding up of the company.

**BARBER & JONES LIMITED**  
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## OBITUARIES

## JACK ADIE

Jack Jesson Adie, CMG, former colonial administrator in Zanzibar and Kenya, died on March 27 aged 78. He was born on May 1, 1913.

JACK Adie was a leading member of the colonial administration in Kenya in the period preceding independence in December 1963. During the 12 years that he spent there, which covered those of the Mau Mau emergency in the 1950s, he served in almost every government department, ending up as permanent secretary for labour.

He first went there in 1951 and after filling several posts in the department for education, labour and lands, left Africa in 1957 to become the chief secretary in Barbados. On the formation of the short-lived West Indian Federation in the following year, however, he returned to Kenya as permanent secretary for forest development, game and fisheries.

This was at a time when people throughout the West as well as in Africa were starting to appreciate the threat to wild life caused by



indiscriminate killing and intensive farming. Adie found himself in the forefront of this movement, partly responsible for husbanding Kenya's rich animal resources, and in later years he came to regard this period as the most rewarding of his time there.

His Kenyan experience, however, represented only the second half of his career. Most of the first half, between 1938 and 1948, was spent in Zanzibar where his posts included those of private secretary to the Sultan and to the British resident. He was awarded the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar 4th class before he left.

This period also included

military service during the war as a private in the Kenya regiment, then as a subaltern in the King's African Rifles. For part of the time he was on secondment in Ethiopia, where he served as personal assistant to the Emperor Haile Selassie's military/political adviser.

Although he spent most of his career in East Africa, Jack Adie came from the heartland of England, near Birmingham, where his family owned a well-established and nationally reputed firm of silversmiths. The company eventually closed in the early 1950s, one of its last commissions being a commemorative salver for the Queen on her accession to the throne in 1952.

Adie went to Shrewsbury School, then Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a degree in mods and English literature. He also won a tennis blue, played five for the university and was awarded his tennis colours for Warwickshire. He entered the colonial service after taking a first class pass in the administrative civil service course.

After leaving Kenya in 1964 he was attached for five years to the Ministry of Overseas Development in London before finally retiring in 1969. He and his wife then became "sixpenny settlers" in Malta, joining a large number of other returning British expatriates who were tempted to the island by an income tax concession of sixpence in the pound. Adie returned to Britain in the late 1970s shortly after the death of his wife.

While in Zanzibar he wrote a number of monographs, copies of which are now kept in the country's national museum. They included one on bull-fighting in East Africa, another on the Zanzibar national anthem and a third on the traditional, brass-decorated Arab doors. The last of these has been incorporated in the Zanzibar official guide.

On returning from Malta as a widower in Britain, however, he embarked on a self-appointed task which almost created its own lifestyle. Always a lover of opera, he set himself the target of seeing 600 different operatic works. His quest took him on a musical odyssey throughout the world, to Australasia, as well as all over Europe and North America. He made it though. He had seen 601 by the time he died.

Jack Adie is survived by two daughters and a son.

## Bep van Klaveren

BEP van Klaveren, a Dutch boxer whose fast and furious style earned him the nickname "The Dutch Windmill", has died aged 84. Dutch boxing commentators rated him as one of the best of the country has produced "more a demolition man than a boxer" was the verdict of the Dutch national daily paper, *Algemeen Dagblad*, reporting on his death.

Van Klaveren was the only Dutch boxer ever to win an Olympic gold medal; he was placed first in the featherweight division at the 1928 games in Amsterdam. He also held the European light-

weight and middleweight titles at various times during the 1930s.

Van Klaveren was a fighter in the old style, aggressive and hard punching, continually moving forward and relying chiefly on his footwork rather than his hands for defence.

He toured extensively in the United States and Australia in the 1930s and 1940s, but he was never granted the world championship challenge he so obviously merited by American boxing authorities.

He finally retired from the ring at the age of 48, after losing a European championship challenge to Idriss Dionne, a French fighter half his age.

## Supper

France-British Society The annual meeting and supper of the Franco-British Society was held last night at the RAF Club. The Marquess of Lansdowne, president, was in the chair and presented the Enid McLeod literary prize to Mr Frank Giles and the Landscape Gardening award to Mme Marie-Louise Hemphill, President-Fondatrice of Les Amis du Jardin Shakespeare, Paris. M Michel Lemaire, Cultural Counsellor at the French Embassy, was the guest speaker and Sir Reginald Hibbert, chairman of the society, also spoke.

## Birthdays today

Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 48; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 68; Mr J.P. Kavanagh, racehorse trainer, 49; Sir Neil Lawson, former High Court judge, 84; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former marm-in-chief, PMRANS, 87; Mrs Mary Moore, former principal, St Hilida's College, Oxford, 62; Mr W. Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, 49; Mr Eric Porter, actor, 94; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 73; Professor Maurice Stacey, chemist, 85; Sir Thomas Thomson, chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 69; Miss Dorothy Tuin, actress, 61.

## Luncheon

First Day Cover Club Mr Cliff Morgan was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday at the RAF Club to mark the issue of the Europe 92 stamps, including a special stamp honouring the British Paralympics team. Mr Keith McDowall presided. Among those present were: Mr Colin Pearson, Mr Anthony Weiss, Mr Alan Tullin, Mr Alan Johnson, David Evans, Mr Inga Jones, Mrs Clare Reid and Mr Dermot McCre.

## Classical Association

## How man's best friend avoided the cooking pot

BY PHILIP HOWARD

FOOD and sex were topics that occupied the Classical Association at its annual meeting in Oxford yesterday. These are ancient human preoccupations. And the classicists went back to their roots.

Dr Robert Sallares of Manchester examined how our modern attitudes towards animals were formed by our remote ancestors. Neanderthal man emerged from the ice ages hungry, and eating any kind of meat that moved. Gradually man formed cultural prejudices about what to do with different animals. It is a mere accident of history that in the United Kingdom we eat pigs, but not generally dogs, horses, or insects. In fact the human body produces an enzyme whose only function is to break down the flesh of insects. So there is nothing unnatural about eating them; except for our history and conditioning.

If an animal could not be integrated into an ancient economy, it became suspect, and regarded as unclean

meat. This explains that taboo on pig (a bad trotter at the best of times) in nomadic societies. Dogs gradually became forbidden meat for the opposite reason, because they became man's best friend. Europeans have been making animals into pets for forty centuries. Some animals, like horses and cows, became taboo for eating because they were too valuable, as cows still are in India. A Roman was prosecuted for murder for killing an ox.

Of all our ancestors the Egyptians have the strangest relation to animals, making their Gods in the image of animals, even those scavengers, the jackal and the dung beetle. Only the poor old hippopotamus was not deemed sacred. This lecture, combined with Magdalen cuisine, was enough to turn a sensitive man vegan.

Mr Ken Dowden of Birmingham University took the conference back to the ancient European wars between the sexes, represented by the proto-feminist Ama-

zons. These are the wild warrior women with female bodies but unfeminine natures. The notion that they cut off their right breasts to make it easier to throw javelins is probably just foolish folk etymology. In art they have two breasts. Women rule, OK? but why is the removal of only one breast a denial of femininity? And why in the myth is there no race of men who have removed one testicle?

In the myths the only good Amazon was a dead one. Their function in life is to fight, and have their belts removed (as for sex, and childbirth) and die. Mr Dowden reckons that the point of the myth of the Amazons was to reinforce gender roles in a male society. Greek girls were allowed to race and hunt, perform military dances and, as a rite of passage while they were maidens. When they married, Amazons had to die. That is, they had to be taken down at home as invisible little women, and have babies.

## SAM WALTON

Samuel Moore Walton, reputedly the richest man in America and certainly the most successful merchant of his time, died at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Hospital in Little Rock on April 5 aged 74. He was born on March 29, 1918, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

THE secret of Sam Walton's success was simple: he had a talent for inspiring his employees to serve their customers. A gifted, homespun orator, he made personal visits to dozens of his Wal-Mart stores each week, preaching the same message: help customers, cut costs, and share the profits. The technique built his empire from a single shop in Arkansas in 1962 to a current chain of 1,752 stores in 42 states, with annual sales of \$44 billion and profits last year of \$1.6 billion.

Walton was named by *Forbes Magazine* as the wealthiest person in America in 1985. He hated the distinction, saying: "All that hullabaloo about somebody's net worth is just stupid, and it's made my life a lot more complex and difficult." But America's worship of the dollar made it impossible for him to escape the awe and adulation, and his wealth was certainly remarkable. Divided among five family trusts, it is currently valued at \$23 billion in Wal-Mart stock alone, drawing annual dividends of \$93.5 million.

Sam Walton grew up in Missouri, where he was an Eagle Scout, quarterback of the state champion football team and president of the student council at his high school. He worked his way through the University of Missouri, delivering newspapers and waiting at table while earning a degree in economics, then served as an army captain during the second world war.

He opened his first shop in 1945 with the aid of a \$25,000 loan from his father-in-law. It was part of a cut-price franchise chain. Walton worked with the chain until 1962, then branched out on his own in the belief that the way ahead lay in under-served rural areas. The idea proved phenomenally successful, largely because of Walton's personal touch and organising ability, and his willingness — rare among American businessmen — to share his success with his employees. He established profit-sharing plans which enabled low-paid workers to retire with comfortable and even lucrative pensions. Wal-Mart went public in 1970, and



the stock soared as Wall Street noted an unbroken pattern of high profits and fast growth. From 1981 to 1991 the shares produced an average annual return of 46.8 per cent, and an investment of \$3,000 in 1981 is today worth \$170,000. Last year the chain passed Sears Roebuck and Co to become America's largest retailer, serving its stores from 19 cavernous distribution centres, each with six miles of rack space, 2,000 trucks and a fleet of aircraft.

Until recent months, when he finally succumbed to a long-running battle with hairy-cell leukaemia and multiple myeloma, Walton continued to fly his own twin-engine aircraft from town to town, often visiting as many as six of his stores in a single day. He was far from being a remote tycoon. In 1983, after Wal-Mart's profits exceeded expectations, he kept a promise to his employees by putting on a grass skirt and dancing a hula in the middle of Wall Street.

Walton surrendered active control of the company to a team of hand-picked senior executives in 1988, though he remained chairman until his death. Financial experts do not expect his loss to affect the continued success of Wal-Mart, which Walton had planned to have sales exceeding \$100 billion by the turn of the century.

Last month Walton was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour. He was commended as "an American original, embodying the entrepreneurial spirit and epitomising the American dream." He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

## KARL TUNBERG

Karl Tunberg, Hollywood screenwriter, died in Putney near April 4 aged 83. He was born in Spokane, Washington, on March 11, 1909.



KARL Tunberg was a true Hollywood professional. Whatever the star, whatever the genre, Tunberg would deliver the appropriate goods: airy musical comedy for *Beau Brummell* (1954), Mongol tough talk for *Tarzan Bulba* (1962). He first worked in Hollywood in 1937 and over the space of three decades put words into the mouths of Betty Grable, Alice Faye, Glenn Miller, Sonja Henie, Mario Lanza, Robert Taylor, Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner and Doris Day.

MGM's prestigious remake of *Ben Hur*, released in 1959, gave him the chance to work on something more substantial than light entertainment, though the chariot race has a stronger grip on the memory than the dialogue. He wrote his script early in the 1950s for the producer Sam Zimbalist, carving a clear-cut narrative from Lew Wallace's blockbuster novel

about an aristocratic Jew's troubles during the time of Christ. Distinguished writers like Maxwell Anderson, Gore Vidal and, especially, Christopher Fry were drafted to iron out colloquial phrases and buff the lines with literary polish: "Did you enjoy your dinner?", for instance, "Was the food to your liking?"

Fry's contribution fuelled a controversy. Although Tunberg readily agreed to share the writing credit with Fry, the Screen Writers Guild (for whom Tunberg had served as president) adjudged

Tunberg the sole writer. In 1960 the film was nominated for twelve Academy Awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay. Significantly or not, this was the only category where the Oscar failed to materialise.

Tunberg had held the Screen Writers Guild's presidency in 1951: a difficult year. The House Un-American Activities Committee, dedicated to communism's eradication, was burrowing feverishly into Hollywood writers' private lives. To safeguard the guild's status and forestall further enquiries, Tunberg, an apolitical liberal, was authorised by the guild's board to provide committee investigators with all records of union meetings. Writers who appeared as "unfriendly" witnesses did so without the guild's official support.

Otherwise, Tunberg's career proved busy but uneventful. He went to Hollywood after teaching experience, berthing first at Twentieth Century Fox. Glossy musicals were an early speciality: along with *Down Argentine Way* (1940), with Betty Grable and Carmen Miranda warbling away, he

worked on *My Gal Sal* (1942) and *Orchestra Wives* (1942). At Paramount, a few years later, he produced several of his own scripts: *Kitty* (1945), with Paulette Goddard and Ray Milland, directed by Mitchell Leisen, a succulently staged drama about a guttersnipe-turned-duck in Gainsborough's London, was much admired and considered quite racy in its day. Then MGM and *Ben Hur* beckoned.

In the 1960s, Tunberg's output dwindled, mirroring the collapse of the Hollywood studio system. He worked on several British films, including an unbuttoned melodrama, *I Thank a Fool* (1962), and *The Seventh Dawn* (1964), a romantic farce, directed by Lewis Gilbert, into the Malaysian jungles. Eventually he settled in London.

For MGM *Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?*, with Doris Day and Terry-Thomas, did not quite live up to the promise of its title and remained stage-bound. Among his last American films was *How Do I Love Thee?* (1970), a sentimental comedy with Jackie Gleason and Maureen O'Hara.

## Latest wills

Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, the classical actress who frequently appeared with Sir John Gielgud, left estate valued at £116,124 net. She left just under £80,000 to personal beneficiaries and the remainder to charity and other groups. She died in January aged 101.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Mr Francis Albert James Vineat, of Tones, Devon, £1,142,105. Mrs Phyllis Mary Woolfenden, of Howe, East Sussex, £1,420,188. Mr John Edwin Branstetter, of Chippingham, Wiltshire, £1,167,948.

Mr Stephen Cannon, of Hampstead, £1,492,527. Mrs Marian Jackson, of Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire, £1,197,645. Mr Eric Alfred Braddell, of Kensington, £1,188,538. Mr Peter Richard Hager, of Bayswater, £1,244,651. Mrs Josephine Naomi Pears, of Regent's Park, £1,457,121.

Jean Eleanor Batters, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £708,169 net. She left personal legacies of £25,000, all her pictures to the Tower Art Gallery, Eastbourne, and the residue to the Actors' Charitable Trust.

Mrs Violet Marion Keil, of Broadway, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £2,109,394 net.

Lady Elizabeth Agnes Mary Weld, of Lutworth Manor, Wareham, Dorset, wife of Sir Joseph Weld, former Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and chairman of Wessex regional health authority, left estate valued at £434,952 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Mr Francis Albert James Vineat, of Tones, Devon, £1,142,105. Mrs Phyllis Mary Woolfenden, of Howe, East Sussex, £1,420,188. Mr John Edwin Branstetter, of Chippingham, Wiltshire, £1,167,948.

## Memorial service

The Right Rev C.R. Claxton, The Right Reverend of Lancashire was represented by Mr Michael Fitzherbert-Brookhouse, Vice-Lord Lieutenant, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Right Rev Charles Robert Claxton held yesterday in Blackburn Cathedral. The Provost of Blackburn officiated. Mr Simon Claxton, son, read the lesson and Mr David Claxton, son, read from the words of Canon Henry Scott Holland. The Archdeacon of Blackburn gave an address and the Bishop of Blackburn pronounced the blessing.

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Warrington and the Right Rev J.W. Rotherham were robed and in the Sanctuary.

## Church news

## Resignations and retirements

The Rev Canon Bernard Brown, Bishop of Social and Industrial Adviser and Team Leader (Bristol) to retire as from June 30.

The Rev Canon John Cockerton, Rector, Whitby, to retire as from September 30.

The Rev Peter Jefford, Rector, Raddon Team Ministry (Exeter) to retire as from May 31.

The Rev John Newton, Rector, St Peter and St Paul, Todwick, Sheffield; to retire as from April 30.

The Rev John Scholefield, Vicar, Stoke Gabriel and Collaton St Mary (Exeter) to retire as from June 30.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Prince George Galitzine



GEORGE Galitzine (obituary, April 2) was a romantic figure whose love of Russia almost transcended that of his adopted country. Increasingly he was to spend more and more time amongst the splendours of his family's past, a dispossessed nobleman playing the grand dragoman (under the watchful eye of the KGB) to successive waves of English tourists. His usual stance, as many who accompanied him will recall, was at the back of the party explaining to his devotees, that what the tourist guide was saying was total rubbish! And then giving his own version laced with family anecdotes.

I first knew George when I was a schoolboy and he a White Russian refugee, his family having lost everything in the Revolution. Years later on a magical night in June I remember George sitting with my wife and me in the garden facing the Michael Palace in St Petersburg (or Leningrad then) talking deep into the night about the old days, how his family acquired this palace, the cause and meaning of the Revolution, and emergent "Perestroika". And then a visit to the forbidden Palace of Oranienbaum (supposed to be occupied by "research chemists"), which had been his mother's former home.

On an impulse George makes off towards the grandiose garden stairs ascending in sweeping flights to the front of the palace. A lone figure in this phantasmagoria of architecture. He rattles

a glass door in an attempt to open it and see what is going on inside. All he sees is a man in a white coat, confirming his worst fears. He then told us the story of his mother's former ladies' maid, who suddenly turned up in England in 1935, the family having left in 1915 when his father, Prince Vladimir, joined his regiment at the Front. "Oh, yes, milady," she remarked, "I was at Oranienbaum not so long ago, and your dresses are still hanging up in the cupboard where you left them."

George's sad death will be another link gone with this long-forgotten world.

Sir Carol Mather

YOUR obituary of Prince George Galitzine prompted me to look out my copy of the July 1934 school photograph of St Paul's, in which Galitzine — and another boy called Charlton — appeared twice, at each end, having sprinted round the back and beaten the clockwork panoramic camera.

Hubert Darke

## Yves Rocard

TO YOUR summary (March 23) of Yves Rocard's scientific work, I wish to add his contribution to research in support of treaties to ban nuclear weapon tests. He represented France at the "Geneva Conference of Experts" in 1958 when ways and means for detecting violations by the explosions geophysical effects in space, the atmosphere and underground were evaluated.

It was while conducting me on a tour of his seismological network, designed to verify underground tests in the presence of earthquakes, that he introduced me to experimental water divining. The station in the Morvan, south of Paris, suffered a water supply problem. Yves Rocard

produced a pair of whale bones, fastened at one end with insulating tape, and proceeded to survey the area. Sensing a sceptic, he invited me to walk alongside his Cicerone, my forearm held in tension by the forked whale bones. I was unable to prevent the violent swing of the device as I walked past the engine. Rocard explained his hypothesis of "bio-magnetism" and described his experiments with small magnets attached to the forearms of his students.

Yves Rocard's lively sense of humour would have been aroused to see Aldermaston engineers seeking a water main under the lawn of my laboratory by means of a hazel twig.

Hal Thirlaway

## Norman Bruce

NORMAN Bruce (obituary, April 1) and I played together for Blackheath in their century year 1957-58, but later we were also colleagues at Prestfield Prep School, Shrewsbury, where Norman put in sterling service as a teacher after his army career ended. He was greatly loved by the boys there, to whom he taught woodwork, fly-fishing and fly-fishing, as well as

coaching them to a high standard of rugby.

He was also a very committed Christian and served both his home parish and our chapel well. Our processional cross, pews and other church furnishings will continue to testify to both his skill as a carpenter and the deep faith which sustained him over these last courageous months.

The Rev John Waddington-Feather

## April 8 ON THIS DAY 1925

Though traffic on the roads in 1925 was comparatively light, headlights were seen to be a problem. However, the switching off of headlights when two cars met was not seen to be a very good idea.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (1866-1929) was a pioneer of motoring in England. He was the father of the present peer.

## "DAZZLE" HEADLIGHTS. VIEWS OF MOTORISTS.

Controversy has again arisen among motorists as to the advisability of switching off powerful headlights when meeting other motor vehicles with similar lighting equipment. So long ago as 1903 the question of danger from dazzling headlights was receiving the attention of the Royal Automobile Club, and experiments were made with the various devices to see if the trouble caused by glaring lights could be remedied. These early devices were crude in character and did not come into effective use. Since the war the number of cars on the roads has greatly increased and the dazzle difficulty has become more acute. It seemed likely in 1923 that the Ministry of Transport would take action, but experts like Lord Montagu of Beaulieu urged that the Department and the automobile bodies who had the matter in hand should not legislate in a hurry, and the discretion of motorists is still unrestricted by regulations.

As the position stands at present the Ministry of Transport is contemplating the introduction into Parliament, possibly during this session, of a Road Vehicles Bill, and in this the Minister may seek to obtain powers to issue regulations in respect of the more powerful kind of headlights. Taking powers is one thing,

however, and the framing of satisfactory regulations is another, and it is unlikely that the technical advisers of the Minister will propose the imposition of hard-and-fast rules without a full consideration of the progress made with the evolution of "anti-dazzle" lamps or devices any of the generally admitted danger to other users of the roads caused by the sudden switching off of headlights. A demonstration, arranged by the Royal Automobile Club, of "anti-dazzle" inventions was held in Richmond Park in February, and devices produced by about 50 separate firms then received a trial. The tests showed that the manufacturers were advancing slowly towards a solution of the problem, but motorists were not convinced that a really satisfactory lamp had been found. Since then the RAC has received further applications for trials, and it is clear that the manufacturers are giving close attention to the subject.

Meanwhile, motorists are troubled by the confusion created as the result of conflicting views as to whether lights should be kept on or shut off when cars are about to meet in the dark. The majority of drivers have now adopted the conclusion of the committee of the Royal Automobile Club that switching off headlights when passing other vehicles with powerful lamps is a dangerous practice. The chief drawback to a sudden diminution of illumination of the road is that drivers are unable to adapt themselves immediately to the change of lighting. This leads to a risk of losing, momentarily, a correct sense of direction, and also of running down pedestrians or cyclists.

The question of "dazzle" is only one of a number concerned with lighting as it affects the motorist. Car owners are asking, for instance, for improvements of street lighting, and Captain E. H. Fryer, the head of the Road Department of the Automobile Association, has urged that there is need of a national standard of lighting.







TODAY IN BUSINESS

TAX BLUES

Richard Jeffrey argues that Labour's tax proposals would hit the families with crippling mortgages, who are critical to Britain's housing market  
Page 25

MORE BOOKS

St Ives, the printer, believes Labour would spend more on education, and it hopes to print the extra textbooks  
Tempus, page 22

WELL DRESSED

NEXT

Next, the retail group that collapsed after aggressive expansion, is making a profit and has resumed dividend payments  
Page 23

GOOD RETURNS

A development bank run by civil servants has made £44 million profit on a £2 million investment in Hong Kong  
Page 23

POWER BASE

PowerGen, the electricity generator, plans to negotiate pay deals with all unions at the same time instead of in three batches  
Page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7463 (-0.0049)  
German mark 2.8433 (+0.0072)  
Exchange index 90.1 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1865.3 (+6.1)  
FT-SE 100 2404.2 (+3.3)  
New York Dow Jones 3270.57 (-4.92)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17791.55 (-644.82)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%  
3-month Interbank 10 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4%  
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%  
Federal Funds 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 3.88-3.87%  
30-year bonds 10 1/2% to 10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.7504  
DM £1.7491  
DM £1.8426  
Sfr £1.6107  
Cfr £1.6245  
Yen £1.3324  
Index 90.1  
ECU £1.77538  
ECU £1.39354  
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$338.50 pm \$338.75  
close \$337.80-338.30 (£193.00-193.50)  
New York:  
Comex \$337.75-338.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.50 bbl (\$18.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)  
\* Denotes mtd trading price

Stores chief campaigns against rises

# Tesco to fight banks' plastic card charges

By Gillian Bowditch and Neil Bennett

BRITAIN'S big retailers are bracing themselves for a confrontation with the clearing banks over increased charges for handling direct debit and credit card transactions.

Tesco, Britain's second-largest supermarket group, which yesterday announced a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £546 million, gave warning that it would strongly resist the increases, which came into effect on April 1. There was also a veiled threat from Tesco that if charges did not come down the group may consider suspending the direct debit system it has spent £20 million installing.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, accused the banks of unilaterally increasing charges without negotiations to an unsupportable level. He said: "We believe the banks are behaving disgracefully. They have deeply upset us. We intend to take a firm line and we are not alone."

David Malpas, managing director at Tesco, said the group had written to the Office of Fair Trading about what it perceives as a cartel. Tesco is fighting the changes via the British Retailers Association. Mr Malpas said 20 per cent of Tesco's sales are paid for by direct debit with cards such as Switch and Connect.

Bank charges for processing a direct debit transaction have doubled in some cases and trebled in others, he said. Typically, a large retail group pays 6p for processing a direct debit transaction. From April 1 the charge has risen to 12p and in some cases 18p.

The group is also unhappy about a rise in credit-card transaction handling fees. These increased from 1 per cent of the item sale price to 1.1 per cent and are set to rise to 1.3 per cent next year. However, the banks are

poised to stand firm. Green, the general manager of Switch UK, said: "Retailers recognise that Switch is a great product, but they do not want to pay for it." He said Switch charges are rising because card issuers were demanding more money for guaranteeing payments.

Barclays, Britain's largest credit and debit card issuer and transaction processor, said credit card fees had fallen substantially since 1989 and the bank had lost money on the business in the past two years.

A spokeswoman said: "Retailers have seen the benefits of plastic cards. There are 45 million cards in Britain and they are a powerful spending force. The retailers are tough negotiators but we need to be tough as well because we need to make these charges realistic."

Tesco unveiled a strong set of figures yesterday despite the recession, which affected sales in the second-half last year.

Turnover increased 12.9 per cent to £7.6 billion and pre-tax profits grew 25.1 per cent to £546 million. Fully-diluted earnings per share grew 20.2 per cent to 19.95p and the final dividend is 4.3p, making 6.3p for the year, an increase of 20 per cent. The



Malpas: complaint

group is serving 500,000 customers every Sunday at 200 stores and Sir Ian said there was a huge demand for Sunday shopping. The recession appears to be easing and the group's performance has improved steadily since the low point in November, he said.

Tesco has increased its market share from 9.4 per cent to 9.6 per cent. Twenty-four new stores were opened last year, at a cost of £700 million, and 28 are due to open this year.

These should create 7,000 jobs. The group is experimenting with a new small store format, Tesco Metro, and one is due to open in London's Covent Garden shortly.

Sir Ian, whose pay came under fire after last year's report and accounts showed he earned £1.48 million, more than £1 million of which was profit-related, said this year's report would show a sharp fall in director's emoluments.

He said the group made no political donations last year. "We are apolitical but my top priorities for the economy are: control of inflation, control of interest rates, retaining management talent in the UK and the generation of real jobs including encouragement of foreign investment."

Mr Malpas said the group made a spirited defence of its profit margins before a House of Commons select committee.

"Consumers in the UK have to spend a much smaller proportion of their disposable income on food compared to their counterparts in other developed countries."

"Our prices are lower than they were in 1985. Consumers in this country get an astonishingly good deal compared to their counterparts on the Continent," he said.

Tempus, page 22



Where there's brass: Richard Holland, at the group's London factory, after announcing a rise in profits

## Recovery in world growth likely to be more modest

THE improvement in world economic conditions that was to speed up recovery in Britain this year is likely to be more modest than previously expected, according to the latest assessment by two key international organisations.

Jean-Claude Paye, secretary general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said yesterday that the Paris-based organization of the leading 24 industrial economies could revise down slightly its growth forecast for 1992.

Its last forecast, published in December, put growth in the real national product in the OECD area at 2.2 per cent this year, up from 1.1 per cent in 1991. For 1993, the OECD predicted 3.3 per cent growth. Mr Paye, speaking in Bonn, said the revision could come at the forthcoming OECD ministerial meeting on May 18-19.

The International Monetary Fund in Washington has meanwhile downgraded its forecast for global growth too. Washington sources said

growth in the industrial world was now expected to reach only 2 per cent this year, compared with the 2.8 per cent foreseen last October. After "lacklustre" growth performance this year, the IMF board expect a pick-up next year. Despite his warning of slower growth, Mr Paye made clear that he still expects general recovery in the OECD area during the second half of this year. The downward revision for the whole year reflected the delayed start to the pick-up in activity. He drew attention to the serious constraints that limit OECD countries' room for fiscal manoeuvre. Further increases in budget deficits could stoke inflation and hinder nascent recovery, he said.

Following poor American jobs data last week, Wall Street has again become unsure about the durability of the American recovery. But Mr Paye added the OECD's weight to the view that the American recovery is already under way.

European growth is expected to be slower. But Germany, the regional powerhouse, is forecast to accelerate to 3.25 per cent next year from 1.25 per cent growth in 1992. The world as a whole, including the developing nations, is expected to grow more slowly than the industrial world, but speed up in 1993. Dissenting voices at the IMF believe that even the downgraded growth prognosis could still be over-optimistic. They remain concerned that consumer confidence will continue to be constrained by the debt overhang in

Comment, page 25

## Boosey & Hawkes in tune

MUSIC publishing and instrument making sound an improbable counter to world-wide recession. But the combination has proved effective at Boosey & Hawkes, which enjoyed a 23.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4 million.

Richard Holland, the chief executive, said: "We have not seen any effect of recession on the publishing business so far — including the first quarter of the current year. But we do expect to see some slowdown... this year." The publishing division's operating profits rose 31 per cent to £3.5 million.

Instrument making has been more affected by recession, although operating profits rose 13 per cent to £3.1 million, with sales to Japan and the Far East enhanced by the strong yen. However, Mr Holland said the British market had been one of the worst affected. To help remedy a rise in stocks of unsold instruments, nine jobs are to be shed at the group's brass factory at Edgware, London. A final dividend of 14.5p (12.4p) makes a total of 20p (16.4p).

## Virani steps down at Control Securities

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

NAZMU Virani, the entrepreneur who is facing a charge of false accounting, has stepped down as chairman and chief executive of Control Securities, the property and leisure group.

The announcement came on the day Mr Virani was released on bail of £1.25 million at the City of London magistrates court. Bail was put up in three sureties. Two, of £500,000 each, were made by Mr Virani's brothers Zul and Silu. The remainder was offered by Narinder Chadha, a family friend.

Mr Virani must surrender his passport, visit Rochester Row police station twice a week and remain based at his home in Putney, south London. The case was adjourned until July 7.

Control Securities, Mr Virani's main company, said that he had decided to step

down "pending the resolution of the current Serious Fraud Office investigations into his private affairs". Mr Virani will continue to act as a non-executive director, and his two brothers remain in their positions as executive directors. Mr Virani and his family still control 12 per cent of the group's shares.

Control has promoted Sydney Robin, a non-executive director, to become chairman until the group makes a permanent appointment. Mr Robin was previously a deputy managing director of Great Universal Stores.

A statement from Control emphasised that the company was not under investigation itself and that the SFO enquiries, which is connected with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, were focused on Mr Virani's private affairs.

## Japan fears Nikkei has further to fall

From Joanna Pitman in Tokyo

AS TOKYO share prices fell sharply yesterday and the Nikkei 225 index slipped to a five-year low of 17,791.55, worries were voiced by finance ministry and ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials that the market still has some way to go before a significant rebound is possible.

Shigeki Morinobu, a finance ministry official, said: "We have taken all short-term measures possible, including lowering the official discount rate to 3.75 per cent and implementing a package of emergency economic measures to boost the economy. Neither seems to have had the desired effect of boosting the stock market." He added that suggested long-term measures, such as allowing companies to buy their own shares or removing the tax charged on share transac-

tions, would require legislative changes that would take time, "which we do not have". The LDP has formed a task force to draft a package of measures to help support falling share prices and long-term steps designed to attract investors back to the market. These have yet to be unveiled. Trading yesterday was slow, with an estimated 200 million shares changing hands, far below the 1.5 billion that used to be traded in the market's heyday in 1989 when the Nikkei almost topped the 40,000 mark.

According to Chris Dodson, of Merrill Lynch Japan, the only thing that could force a significant upturn would be some favourable corporate earnings surprises in the real estate and construction sectors.

Five-year low, page 24

## Crumbling island buys crumbling airline

By Matthew Bond

WHAT do you do if 80 years of intensive phosphate mining has left your island just a metre or so above the advancing, greenhouse-warmed waters of the Pacific? Answer: buy a plane — and fast. Faced with exactly that problem, Nauru, a tiny but rich island in the South Pacific, is endeavouring to do just that. In fact, it likes the idea so much, it wants to buy an entire airline.

The Nauru government yesterday made a \$55 million (£24 million) offer for Compass Airlines, the Australian carrier whose failure last December left 125,000 would-be passengers with apparently worthless tickets. Since December, Compass has been run by provisional liquidators, who have been looking for between \$30 million to \$60 million of new capital to get the planes back in the air.

Despite having teamed up with Aust-

fin, a merchant bank, the Nauru government appears to be having difficulty in getting the liquidators to take its bid seriously. An earlier bid from the Nauru/Austfin combination has already been rejected, and, on Friday, the liquidators announced their intention to sell Compass to Southern Cross Airlines, a company, which despite its name, has yet to put a plane in the air. But Kinza Clodumar, Nauru's finance minister, is not a man to give up without a fight. After consulting with Austfin, the revised offer shows the islanders are determined to enter the airline market.

The bid for Compass is Nauru's boldest attempt yet to improve what might be termed the quality of its national earnings. For after 80 years of mining — first by the Germans and then by "the phosphateers", a commission representing British, Australian and New Zealand national interests — Nauru's rich mineral resource is approach-

ing exhaustion. The price of realising its mineral wealth has been high. Over four-fifths of the island are said to resemble the surface of the moon, while the island is still pursuing a \$72 million legal claim against the British, Australian and New Zealand governments for loss of profits prior to the island gaining independence in 1968. But the monetary rewards for the 6,000 or so islanders have been considerable.

Nauru's government has been aware that the phosphate income stream is nearing its end and has been diverting its national income into supposedly more secure international investments, including property. At one point, perhaps tired of the view out of the cabinet room window, the government toyed with the idea of buying a new island from the Australian government and moving the whole population to a more agreeable home. Presumably the view from 30,000ft is rather better.

## Tories creeping up on Labour

Labour in disarray over Ashdown's big survey gives Labour 2.5pc lead

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TEMPUS

# Profit figures stack up for Tesco

THERE are elements of the City that have been waiting for the three big supermarket groups to feel the effects of the recession. According to Tesco, it happened last year.

Far from faltering under the impact of a slowdown in volume growth, Tesco, whose chairman is Sir Ian MacLaurin, has emerged from one of the toughest years ever with a set of figures that would have sparked even in the heady days of the boom.

In the 53 weeks to end-February, against 52 weeks to February 23, 1991, turnover rose 12.9 per cent to £7.6 billion and pre-tax profits grew 25.1 per cent from £436 million to £546 million. Operating profits grew 20 per cent to £503 million.

The £572 million rights issue last year benefited the interest line by £69 million and diluted the earnings per share figure 3 per cent. The extra week added 2 per cent to pre-tax profits. Operating margins increased from 6.6 per cent to 7.1 per cent and fully diluted earnings per share grew 20.2 per cent to 19.95p. Property profits fell from £19.1 million to £500,000 and the final dividend is 4.3p, making 6.3p for the year, a rise of 20 per cent.

These results have been achieved in a year when the underlying volume growth was marginal. New stores accounted for 6.5 per cent of the 13 per cent sales increase and the extra week for 2 per cent. Sunday opening added less than 1 per cent to sales.

Tesco has achieved its profit levels by opening stores that perform at a higher level than the old stores. Last year, £700 million was spent on 24 new stores. Sales per employee have risen from £106,044 to £119,246 in the last year, and profit per employee from £7,018 to £8,456.

Tesco says the recession is easing and sales are running 11 per cent ahead. There are still some who believe that Tesco's strategy of spending £700 million a year on store openings is flawed, but Tesco is sticking to its strategy and it has more than ten years of



Shelves stacked high: Sir Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, in one of the company's superstores

uninterrupted profits growth to back it up.

Assuming pre-tax profits of £615 million (Henderson Crosthwaite) in the current year, the shares, up 4½p at 255½p, are trading on 11.7 times prospective earnings. They have bounced back from a low of 207p at Christmas and, while they might be unexciting in the short term, medium to longer term they do not look expensive.

## Meggitt

FOR Meggitt to have moved from gearing of 59 per cent to 26 per cent in 1991, even before the September rights issue that raised £39.6 million, is, if nothing else, an

indication of just how lax control of working capital must have been among some of Britain's leading companies before the recession encouraged better house-keeping.

The rights issue left £22 million net in the bank, although this will soon be depleted by the £53 million Endevo Corporation purchase announced last month. Bullish talk by Meggitt suggests that a further, similarly sized deal may be in prospect, probably in Europe and again in the controls field.

Meggitt will long be identified in the market's mind for the debacle of the bid for United Scientific Holdings, where the bidder backed

away at the last moment after new financial information came to light.

Ken Coates, the Meggitt chairman, is cautious of some of the opportunities that have been pushed across his desk of late. He admits the company looked at Penny & Giles, now under a £30 million agreed offer from Bowthorpe, before deciding that the asking price was too high.

Meggitt's pre-tax profits were little changed in 1991 at £23.5 million against £23.9 million. Sandy Morris at County NatWest expects another year of consolidation in 1992, although the Endevo buy, earnings-enhancing from the off, will

boost the pre-tax figure to £27 million, he believes.

The shares sell on about 11.5 times this year's earnings and 10.2 times the next year's. After a 25 per cent outperformance of the FT-SE index over the past year, they cannot be described as a raging buy, but the group's proven ability at managing acquisitions should ensure longer-term support.

## St Ives

ST IVES will clap its corporate hands with glee if Labour wins tomorrow. Robert Gavron, chairman, believes then an extra £600 million would be spent on education, which means more text books — which St

Ives would love to print.

A kick to the economy might free up the advertising spend, as the general public shakes off its recession blues. And, on balance, Labour would be generally more positive for the economy, he thinks.

But whatever the colour of the government, St Ives is too far into the second half of the current financial year to be totally saved from the current economic gloom, and will, therefore, probably suffer more pressure on margins in the remaining months to end-July.

So after some again pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, for the six months to end-January, some dip in year-on-year profits looks likely.

The shares are, however, a buy on the grounds that St Ives has already taken effective cost measures to cope with tougher conditions, and because the balance sheet remains strong.

With net cash of £3.4 million, compared with a net holding of £124,000 at the last balance sheet date, financial muscle is on its side. And if the smaller and weaker companies in the printing world are merely holding on by their finger tips, St Ives by contrast is waiting to move ahead.

When an upturn comes, the impact on St Ives's profits line will be direct and impressive. An estimated 30 per cent of any £10 million of additional turnover will feed straight through to profits. So the days of merely maintained interim dividends may not last too long.

St Ives is operating at 75 per cent printing capacity, but the group has secured a higher market share in various fields of operation. City merger and acquisition activity should perk up after the general election, and specialised printing is proving a growing market.

Pre-tax profits of £18 million (£20.2 million) would not be too disappointing, considering the trading back-ground, and a strong profits recovery in 1993 seems likely. A 244p share price, up 5p, and 18.8 times rating, could look generous on a year's view.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Former Lex chief given £637,000 handshake

THE former managing director of Lex Service, who resigned soon after Christmas, received a £637,000 compensation package, the company's 1991 report and accounts disclose. Peter Turnbull's salary was between £265,000 and £270,000 in 1991. Lex made pre-tax profits of just £500,000 that year.

Mr Turnbull's post was not filled after his departure. A spokesman for the company said a managing director was no longer needed because of the sale of the electronics businesses in America and Europe, which Mr Turnbull had been involved in restructuring, and the consequent decrease in the company's size. Last month, Lex reported that in addition to the profits fall, from £9.1 million in 1990 caused by the difficult conditions in the car industry, it had lost the concession to supply Volvo cars after 33 years.

### Wescol cheers Leeds

A £1 MILLION contract to help build one of the world's largest football stands signals better fortune for Wescol, the structural engineering group. Construction industry problems brought a loss of £379,000 before tax in the six months to January 31 (£180,000 loss). But the Leeds United contract, backed by several new orders, will help boost turnover, which fell £1.7 million, after stripping out discontinued operations of Lumbrook Sheeting Contractors. Wescol believes it is on course to break even. There is again no dividend.

### Car dealer at £2.1m

USED car sales and after-sales service provided a bulwark against difficult conditions in the new vehicle market at Dagenham Motors Group, holding pre-tax profits in the year to end-December at £2.1 million (£3.4 million). A 4.0p unchanged final dividend makes a same again 5.75p total. New vehicle sales fell 18.5 per cent and most of the new sales operations made little or no profit or ran at a loss. Used cars rose more than 30 per cent in sales and profits, while after-sales operations again provided most of the profits.

### Demerger considered

PITTCRIEFF is considering the demerger of the mobile communications business from its oil and gas interests. Terry Heneaghan, the chairman, said communications, developed to provide radio services for oil production sites, could command "a substantial value" that was not fully reflected in Pittcreeff's share price of 219p. Group pre-tax profits rose to £3.51 million (£2.03 million) last year and earnings to 17.25p (14.01p) a share. A final dividend of 3.50p (2.50p) makes a total of 6p (4.50p).

### BLP deficit rises

BLP Group, the troubled maker of wood laminates and veneers that is quoted on the USM, reports pre-tax losses of £2.6 million for last year (£198,000 loss). The company said its main markets in the UK and America had been severely affected by recession and turnover of the continuing businesses fell from £23.4 million to £21.7 million. The retained deficit for the year was £3.2 million or 38.2p a share. There is no ordinary dividend (0.25p), but payments on the preference shares are now up to date.

### Ipeco pays more

IPECO Holdings, the manufacturer of aircraft seats based in Southend, Essex, is raising its dividend for last year after a resilient performance in a "most hostile" environment and despite a slight dip in profits. Pre-tax profits slipped 5.8 per cent to £3.38 million on turnover up 0.3 per cent to £18.1 million. The final dividend is 2.2p (2p), making 3.4p (3.2p). Earnings per share were 8.19p (8.74p). Ipeco said its trading position and strong balance sheet gave hope for further advances in the current year.

### Black reduces losses

BLACK & Edgington Group, the supplier of hospitality tents and crowd barriers formerly known as Tubular Edgington, reported reduced interim losses and expects a return to profitability in the second half. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £1.96 million in the six months to end-January (loss of £5.78 million). The figures were helped by a fall in interest payable to £266,000, against £930,000. Losses per share are reduced to 0.4p from 8.1p last time. Again, there is no dividend.

### Addison issue flops

THE £16 million rights issue by Addison Consultancy Group, the market research company, to finance an acquisition of businesses from the collapsed Maxwell empire has flopped, with only 2.4 per cent of the new shares taken up. The nine-for-four issue was priced at 12p compared with yesterday's unchanged market price of 11p and was underwritten by Robert Fleming.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinodol, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday April 29, 1992.

## Annual General Meeting

### Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

The AGM will also cover the Board's proposals for a change in the Articles of Association which broadly will imply that the clause in the Articles which places limitations on the right of foreign nationals to acquire shares in the company (87) be removed, and resulting textual changes made. The abolition of this clause, which is subject to government approval, will mean that all shares become free of the above restrictions.

The meeting will further cover the Board's proposal to authorise the Board, in accordance with Chapter 5, §9 of the Companies Act, to issue convertible debentures not later than the next ordinary general meeting. With the conversion conditions valid at the time of issue, this will mean an offer of S.300,000 shares of the B series to be freely available. This issue shall, with deviation from the shareholders' right of preference, be directed at the international capital market. The Board's conditions for this issue would be those that normally prevail at issues of this kind.

### Notice of Attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Thursday April 16 and must notify the Company before noon Friday April 24 of their intention to attend (Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52), giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding.

### Payment of Dividends

The Board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the register records on May 7 are entitled to receive dividends for 1991. If this date is accepted by the Annual General Meeting it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notices of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on May 14, 1992. The proposed dividend is 4.25 kronor per share. To facilitate payment of dividends, shareholders who have changed address are recommended to inform Vardepapperscentralen VPC AB, S-171 18 Södra, well before April 30.

Proxy forms are available from: AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52 & 37 10 00.

Göteborg, April 1992. The Board of Directors

SKF

## Sales take Ossory nearer goal

By MATTHEW BOND

OSSORY Estates, the property company, has completed more than £40 million of sales so far this year, as it moves towards its target of covering overheads and interest charges with rental income.

About £17.5 million of investment sales were completed by the end of the interim period, with the £177,000 profit generated by the sales saying much about the current state of the market.

John Walker, the chairman, said: "It has become abundantly clear that the present recession is far deeper and will continue for much longer than was expected and that the business of Ossory, in common with almost all property companies, will continue to be adversely affected."

Mr Walker described opportunities for making profit from either trading or developing property as rare. Pre-tax profits at the group slumped from £4 million to £1.5 million in the six months to end-December.

The interim dividend has been cut from 2p to 0.15p, and the company said that the position of the final dividend would be reviewed "following consideration of the year-end results".

In January it was announced that Joe Shaoul and Brett Allen, the company's joint managing directors, were stepping down as part of the rationalisation and cost cutting programme.

## Nissan opens car test and design centre in Britain

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Europe's most advanced car test and design centres, which will bring technology from Japan to Britain, has been opened by Nissan in Bedfordshire.

The company is spending £51 million on the centre, which is linked by computer to Nissan's Japanese headquarters. Advanced vehicle designs can be transmitted to computer screens at the Nissan European Technology Centre at Cranfield, where engineers and designers are already working on developing a car that will be built at Nissan's British manufacturing plant this year.

The Cranfield site, the re-

sult of Nissan policy of having a design centre in each of the main markets in which it makes cars, might help answer European manufacturers' criticisms that the Japanese only assemble cars in Britain while important design functions are carried out in Japan.

Nissan has been manufacturing at Washington, Tyne & Wear, since 1986 and will increase output to 270,000 cars a year in 1993.

The increase will be achieved by adding a new version of the Micra to the current Primera range made at Washington. The Micra will have been developed at Cranfield from the basic Japanese engine, chassis and body design, for production in Britain and sale throughout Europe.

Yutaka Kume, Nissan's president, said: "Now we can say that Nissan is a fully integrated European manufacturer, designing, producing and selling vehicles in Europe for European customers."

The workload for the technology centre, which employs 360 people, includes a project to design a new 4x4 off-road vehicle for manufacture at Nissan's plant in Spain and development of the next generation of Primera saloons and hatchbacks.



Kume: "fully integrated"

## Enter Sky Dragon Charter

A GROUP of farmers in China are forswearing their furrows to take to the skies — but are having to contend with old-order bureaucracy in their struggle to begin the country's first privately run air service.

The farmers, from wealthy Cangnan county in east China's Zhejiang province, signed a contract on Sunday with the government-run Nanjing United Airlines to provide a service between Zhejiang's Wenzhou and Shanghai, the largest city in China.

Under the one-year contract, the farmers will provide flights twice a week, using a Chinese-made Yun 7-100 aircraft, a Nanjing United Airlines official said. The farmers, who are calling

themselves Cangnan Sky Dragon Charter Airline Co, will sell seats on the 52-passenger aircraft for 150 yuan (£16) each.

They will pay Nanjing United a fee equal to 82 per cent of the flight capacity — anything they sell above that level they can keep as profit.

Conservative bureaucrats in Peking could still clip the farmers' wings, however.

An official at the Civil Aviation Administration of China said that the organisation would investigate and close down the farmers' service if it found anything wrong.

An earlier foray by the farmers into chartering aircraft ran into difficulties with Chinese bureaucracy last month. Since July last year

the group had been renting a Russian-made aircraft to fly between Wenzhou and Changsha, capital of Hunan province. This generated revenue of close to two million yuan.

But they had to stop flights on March 25 when the regional government-owned carrier — whose plane it was — transferred the aircraft elsewhere, an official of the Hunan Civil Aviation Administration (HCAA) said.

The farmers, not to be outdone, hope to start again — maybe even using a Boeing 737 jet.

But "the decision rests with the Human authorities", the Hunan aviation administration official said.

(Reuters).

## Dividend up at City Centre

By PHILIP PANGALOS

CITY Centre Restaurants, which runs Garfunkel's and Deep Pan Pizza, is raising its dividend despite a small decline in profits. Pre-tax profits last year slipped to £9.1 million (£10.6 million). The final dividend is raised to 1.01p (0.94p), making 1.46p (1.39p).

Recession and the first half impact of the Gulf war, severe weather and transport disruption all served to keep customers away from the group's outlets. However, Bruce Johnston, the chairman, said there are some tentative signs of recovery. Turnover climbed from £75.7 million to £78.8 million, with the total number of restaurants up nine to 154. Average customer spending increased by 7 per cent.

Results for the current year are "substantially ahead" of the comparable period. There was an extraordinary debit of £60,000, mainly due to a provision against the group's investment in Cullen's.

Earnings per share fell to 3.79p, against 4.04p last time. The shares added 4p to 60p.

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# CDC swells coffers with £46m sale in HK to Chinese

BY ROSS TIEMAN AND LULU YU

CIVIL servants at the Commonwealth Development Corporation have been putting their private-sector banking competitors to shame for years by realising healthy profits on investments in Third World infrastructure.

The CDC's latest realisation, of a 6.86 per cent stake in Hong Kong container terminal operator Modern Terminals Limited (MTL), is, however, by far its most spectacular to date.

The corporation, a little-known British development bank run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, invested £2 million in MTL in 1971. Yesterday, it announced agreement to sell that stake to China Merchant Holdings for £46 million.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co (P&O), the British shipping group, also said it would sell 8.1 per cent of its 23 per cent holding in MTL to China Merchant for £55 million. The deals are

significant both for the attention that they focus on the CDC, and for their signals about the pattern of Hong Kong's future development under China.

The CDC's windfall profit comes only a week before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is scheduled to complete its first review of CDC operations since the bank was created in 1948.

The MMC report on the desk of the incoming foreign secretary will show that the CDC has generated a surplus every year since 1955. Almost uniquely among British public corporations, the corporation is allowed to keep its profits.

Accumulated surpluses, access to cheap-rate loans set aside for government foreign aid, and the spur from the MTL realisation will this year enable the CDC to invest £200 million in Third World projects. Schemes to re-plant hardwoods to replace lost

tropical forest, especially in poorer countries in Africa and the Pacific, are now an urgent priority, the CDC believes.

In Hong Kong, meanwhile, China Merchant, with 15 per cent, will become the second-largest shareholder in MTL, after the Wharf group, founded by the late Sir YK Pao, which owns 26 per cent.

Peking's expansion in Hong Kong in the run-up to the sovereignty changeover in 1997 has been rapid. Chinese firms have made numerous acquisitions in the colony, often using their political ties to go after blue-chip companies and franchises.

The Chinese have significant stakes in Cathay Pacific Airways, and telephone franchisee Hong Kong Telecom. They are also active in the property sector, taking over from the Japanese as Hong Kong's largest investors. As Hong Kong builds its multi-billion dollar airport, Chinese contractors are competitive bidders.

China Merchant, the biggest shipping agency in Hong Kong, has long been interested in the territory's container terminals, which are operated by MTL and Hong Kong International Terminals (HIT), a subsidiary of Mr Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa group.

Hong Kong has the largest privately owned container operations in the world, and is the second busiest port after Singapore. The outlook for the industry is excellent despite an American recession and falling exports because Hong Kong is the principal port for southern China.

Last year, the government granted MTL and HIT rights to develop a terminal, with the understanding that the two would find Chinese partners for the project. As HIT already has a major Chinese shareholder, China Merchant has been expected to team up with MTL.

P&O, which acquired a secondary listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange last September, said yesterday that it wanted to release capital to expand in Hong Kong and the Far East. It also hinted at the formation of P&O Asia, to be headquartered in the colony.

Lord Sterling, the chairman, said "the welcome participation of China Merchant in Modern Terminals Ltd adds strength to MTL's commercial position. Such links further enhance Hong Kong's position as the key strategic centre for South China."



Better shape: David Jones, the chief executive, who reported improved annual results for Next yesterday

## Next cuts a dash back into black

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEXT, the retail group founded by George Davies that crashed spectacularly 18 months ago, is on the road to recovery. Pre-tax profits of £12.3 million in the year to January, after a bottom-line loss of £44.8 million last time, have enabled the group to resume dividend payments.

The figures for last year were clean of 1990's exceptional costs of £429 million, which resulted from the excessive expansion of the mid-Eighties, the recession and property slump.

Next has survived by selling Grattan, its mail order

business, to Otto Versand of Germany for £167.5 million. Group pre-tax and pre-exceptional profits reached £12.3 million after last time's £7.2 million loss. Operating profits were £11.1 million, against profits of £7.2 million, and the interest line has improved from a charge of £14.4 million to a gain of £1.2 million. Turnover was £462 million, against £878 million. Last year's pension holiday, worth £1.5 million, is expected to continue.

Earnings were 3.08p a share, against a loss of 13.58p, and the dividend is 0.75p. Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman, said Next anticipated being

able to recommend the payment of an interim and a final net dividend in the current year.

David Jones, the chief executive, said that since the restructuring plan was introduced two years ago, the group has sold 100 stores, many of which were not trading profitably. An improvement in the cost base and product range led to a strong performance from the shops in the second half of last year. Second-half profits from the retail business were £9.1 million, compared with a first-half loss of £1.9 million.

Next resisted the urge to discount prices outside the sale period and Christmas trading was strong. Sales at Next Directory were below the group's expectations but there were fewer mark-downs. The directory made profits of £4 million, against £2.6 million last time. Club24, the credit business now being wound down, reduced gross debts from £185 million to £163 million. Of the £33.2 million provision, £23.2 million has been utilised and Mr Jones said he did not expect all of the remaining £10 million would be needed.

Since February 1, retail sales are running 7 per cent ahead of last year despite a cut in selling space. Directory sales are up 3 per cent. The shares rose 5p to 71p.

## Palace coup strips GM chief of power

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ROBERT Stempel, chairman of General Motors, the world's largest car company, has been effectively stripped of his executive power and placed on probation in the biggest management shake-up at the car company since its founder was ousted 70 years ago.

The palace coup, staged by the independent directors, has pushed aside much of the top team and replaced Mr Stempel as head of the company's key executive committee with John Smale, a former chairman of Procter and Gamble and a GM director for ten years with a reputation for cutting bureaucracy. The

committee has full executive power, runs the company between the regular monthly board meetings and is able to take unilateral decisions on jobs and spending.

Mr Stempel, aged 58, and 22 months into the top GM job, will remain as chairman and chief executive officer. But those close to the company believe his future is now in the balance.

Promoted into the top day-to-day executive slot is John Smith, aged 54, a vice-chairman and the man who has been in charge of GM's European operations, the only successful part of its car business. Out goes Lloyd Reuss, a hand-picked Stempel lieutenant who was in charge of GM's North American car making operations, which lost over \$11 billion last year.

Two months ago, when he unveiled the worst loss in American corporate history, Mr Stempel said it would take some time to turn around GM.

In a statement, the outside directors said that they wanted a "more aggressive" approach to cost cutting. GM lost \$4.5 billion last year and proposes to cut 74,000 jobs and 21 plants by 1995. Analysts now expect a major acceleration of this plan.

Early last month, the credit rating on GM's \$90 billion of debt was lowered by Standard & Poor's, the rating agency. The rating on \$20 billion of short-term commercial paper is still under review.

Robert Eaton, Mr Smith's number two, left the company last month to become his apparent to Lee Iacocca at Chrysler.

GM will announce figures for the first three months of this year within the next two weeks. They are expected to remain in the red.

## Losses at Waterford Wedgwood reduced

BY MARTIN BARROW

WATERFORD Wedgwood reduced losses in 1991 but said that the market for its crystal and china was still being affected by recession.

The Dublin-based group cut pre-tax losses to IR£2.7 million (£2.52 million) from IR£21.4 million, in line with market expectations, reflecting lower interest charges and exceptional items.

Losses were 0.73p a share, reduced from 4.29p. Again, there is no dividend.

Shareholders were given a warning that the adverse trading environment continued into the opening months of the current year.

Bernard Somers, an accountant, has been appointed

to carry out a study of costs which could herald more job losses in the Irish Republic.

Waterford reduced its Irish workforce from 2,900 to 2,300 in 1987, and the company said in its results statement that crystal workers had been put on short-time to reduce excess capacity.

Sales fell from IR£307.9 million to IR£292.1 million.

The group has introduced a new range of crystal called Marquis. It is being made in Germany, Portugal and Yugoslavia.

The range is twice as profitable as the high-cost crystal produced at the Waterford factories in the Irish Republic.

## Meggitt expects boost

Meggitt, the specialist engineer chaired by Ken Coates, is looking forward to a spending spree by the Kuwaitis and other Middle Eastern countries as orders to repair damage done in the Gulf war are finally placed. The group, which saw pre-tax profits slip from £23.9 million to £23.5 million last year, is remains in acquisition mode even after the \$53 million cash purchase of Endevco Corporation, an American maker of transducers, pressure controls and sensors.

A final dividend of 2.6p makes a total increased 5.6 per cent to 3.6p. Mr Coates said the group was seeing an average of one company a day offered as an acquisition, of which perhaps one of two a week were worth following up.

Tempus, page 22

## Wardle steady

Operating efficiencies and a tighter rein on finances left pre-tax profits at Wardle Stores little changed at £4.36 million (£4.29 million) in the half-year to February 29. The interim dividend is held at 4p.

## Pegasus drops

Pegasus reports a 59 per cent fall in first-half pre-tax profits to £320,000, but is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.5p. Derek Moon, chief executive, said the fall was exaggerated by £272,000 of research and development expenditure.

## Dredging dips

British Dredging, the building materials supplier, is maintaining its dividend for last year despite a slide in profits. Pre-tax profits fell 28.4 per cent to £2.47 million. The final dividend is 4.8p, giving an unchanged 7.4p.

## Losses cut

Bourne End Properties reduced its pre-tax losses to £1.4 million last year compared with £2.2 million in 1990. The total dividend is halved to 1p.

## Laser buys

Countryside Properties has sold a 74,300 sq ft office development in the Chatham Dockyards, in Kent, to Laser Richmond, the enterprise zone property trust. Laser is paying £16.2 million for five buildings that will be built on a 3.4-acre site.

## Baillie payout

Baillie Gifford Technology, which has made capital repayments since 1990, says further payments could follow from the sale of Redwood International to IMI. It is paying a dividend of 0.2p (1.4p).

## Cadbury buys the Victory V brand

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

CADBURY Schweppes, the food and drinks group, is swallowing two of Britain's best known cough sweet brands.

The company is to pay £3.1 million to buy the Hacks and Victory V brands from the receivers of Alma Holdings, the Scottish sweet manufacturer that collapsed in February. The deal will give Cadbury, which produces Throaties and Zutes cough sweets, an 8 per cent share of the £68 million UK medicated confectionery market.

A spokeswoman for Cadbury said that the two acquired brands would initially be developed in the UK market, but their potential for overseas markets would also be assessed. Hacks already has a strong presence in the markets of south east Asia.

The purchase price includes the Hacks and Victory V manufacturing equipment, which will be transferred from the Kellier factory in Dundee, and the Angus manufacturing facility, also in Dundee.

The Angus plant, which manufactured sugar-coated sweets, has been closed since early last month. Production is expected to resume

by early summer and most of the 20 to 30 former employees are expected to be taken on by Cadbury.

The deal leaves KPMG Peat Marwick, the receiver, still looking for buyers for much of the Alma group.

Factories in Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, the rest of the Kellier factory in Dundee, and the Alma, Barker & Dobson, Kellier, Bensons and Milady brand names remain unsold.

Kellier is the market leader in butterscotch, and Alma produced a range of novelty children's sweets including products using Master of the Universe and Batman characters.

All production in the Alma factories has stopped and all but 115 of the company's 775 staff have been made redundant. Before going into receivership its losses were running at some £1 million a month.

Red Owen, of KPMG Peat Marwick, said: "In the six weeks following our appointment we worked extremely hard towards a sale of the whole Alma Holdings Group, but it quickly became apparent that a buyer was not going to be found."

## Sherwood sees wood through trees

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHERWOOD Group, Britain's biggest sockmaker and Europe's largest lacemaker, has once again shrugged off the effects of the recession, reporting pre-tax profits for the year to end-December of 36 per cent to £14.5 million.

The company has achieved impressive profits growth since coming to the Unlisted Securities Market six years ago, and has more than doubled profits since 1988 during a period of slow growth and less consumer spending on clothes.

David Parker, the chairman and managing director, said there had been a trend during the past few years to make socks from healthier, but less long-lasting, natural fibres. The biggest growth market is that for character socks for children, he added. Sherwood has recently won the license to supply Disney character socks in the UK and at Euro Disneyland in Paris. Sher-

wood supplies most of the high street retailers, including Marks and Spencer, its biggest customer, and has a 20 per cent share of the UK market after its acquisition of Samuel Eden in June and Charles W Hall in January. The lace division, two thirds of whose sales are made overseas, also performed "exceptionally well," Mr Parker said.

Year-end gearing was 44 per cent, the first time it has fallen below 50 per cent since the flotation. Mr Parker said he hoped for a further reduction during the current year. He described prospects for 1992 as "very good."

The company has applied for a full listing, partly to "help attract a wider shareholder base".

It is also proposing a bonus issue of four new shares for every one held. The final dividend is increased to 7.5p, making 11.4p for the year, a 25 per cent increase.



Material gain: David Parker, head of Sherwood

## PowerGen breaks mould on labour relations

BY LIZA DONALDSON AND ROSS TIEMAN

TRADE unions at PowerGen, the electricity generator, will today begin consulting the company's 7,000 workers on an agreement that could pioneer the biggest revolution in power industry labour relations since nationalisation 43 years ago.

The breakthrough deal, tabled yesterday, envisages the end of national bargaining, a cut in the number of employee grades from 32 to 11, and salaries ranging from £10,000 to £40,000 being negotiated simultaneously around a single table by trade unions and management. Expected to be agreed by June 1, the deal will mark the beginning of the biggest decentralisation of national pay bargaining in the newly privatised industries.

Electricity industry employers,

now divided into about 20 companies, have given the requisite 12 months' notice that they are withdrawing from national bargaining by January 31 next year. The move will affect 136,000 highly unionised employees. Among power industry workers, 82 per cent belong to a trade union, a far higher level than in the private sector as a whole.

PowerGen, chaired by Sir Graham Day, is seen as the standard bearer for the companies' bargaining agenda in the industry. The group is anxious to increase employee flexibility after an energetic efficiency campaign that has cut employee numbers 40 per cent in the past two years.

The company is seeking single-table bargaining with its six recognised unions, to replace negotiations with three separate groups: the engineer/managers, manual and clerical workers. The proposals also

envisage a single salary spine of 11 grades, replacing 32 national grades, and harmonisation of pay and conditions for white and blue collar workers.

John Hart, personnel director of PowerGen, said the agreement would remove artificial barriers to career progression.

The deal will increase PowerGen's annual wages bill of £160 million to £170 million a year by 1.5 per cent. Employees will be offered a cash incentive of £400 each plus 2 per cent of basic salary as a reward for signing the new contracts.

Other features of the offer are a single pay date from next April and common rules on overtime (more than 37 hours a week) and non-social hours. All pay cheques will be monthly.

Eddie Newall, chief negotiator for manual workers at the GMB general

union, the biggest among the workforce, said the deal would be put to members in a ballot. The GMB would recommend acceptance because the package removed barriers to promotion and improved terms. Nalco, the white-collar union, is also recommending acceptance.

A number of electricity companies are likely to follow PowerGen's lead. A similar deal is being proposed at National Grid for the company's 6,000 employees, and at Manweb, with 4,600 employees. Nuclear Electric is looking for a single-table deal for its 12,500 workers. However, National Power, with 12,500 employees, favours multi-table bargaining with the three traditional bargaining groups. Seaboard, with 6,000 staff, is negotiating a pyramid structure with five bargaining groups, performance-related pay and 150 managers on personal contracts.

## THE LATE SHOW

On the evening of Election Day 1992 we will not close. We shall be fully operational throughout the night - a sure cure for election fever. Our corporate customers will have a continuous service - from opening on Thursday straight through until close of markets on Friday. Whatever their requirements we'll be ready to act on them.

Some of our customers might not need us at 8am. But they'll probably give us a very early call on Friday morning. Secure in the knowledge that our team won't be sliding into seats, coats half off, screens cold, scrambling for an update. We will have been active since before the first MP was returned. We will have the full picture, and so will our customers - well before they reach the office.

If you're a Royal Bank of Scotland customer and want an election fever cure, call us.

LONDON: 071-626 2881  
MANCHESTER: 061-236 3625  
GLASGOW: 041-221 5654

**The Royal Bank of Scotland**  
Treasury and Capital Markets

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## STOCK MARKET

## Shares dimmed after bright start

SHARE prices managed to extend Monday's gains but closed below their best as market-makers began batten- ing down the hatches ahead of polling day.

Instead it was left up to the pound to hold centre stage making impressive gains against the mark. The pound's performance also in-

Whitbread spent another nervous day after the news that it will be making write-offs of £37 million. The shares ended 4½p up at 363p after touching 356p on reports that a seller was trying to unload 4 million shares. But with only 3.4 million traded, it looks as if he may have been forced to withdraw.

spired government securities, which ended with rises of almost 11 at the long end.

Conditions in the equity market remained thin with brokers reporting a virtual absence of retail demand. Market-makers were in no mood to take positions until after the election. The futures market made all the early running with the June series

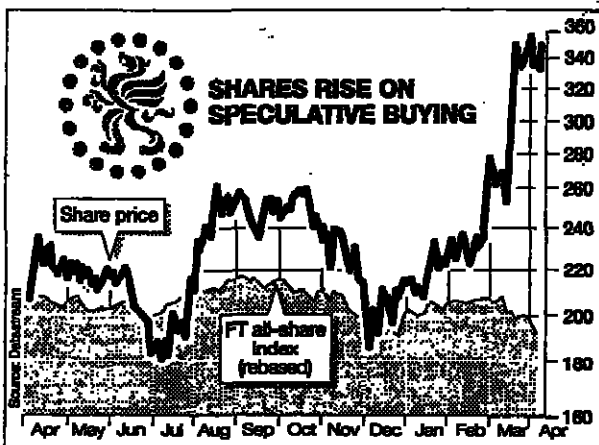
of the FT-SE 100 index being used by dealers to hedge their positions in the cash market.

The FT-SE 100 index was up almost 17 points in early trading but was unable to maintain the momentum and closed 3.3 ahead at 2,404.2. A total of 433 million shares changed hands, a small improvement on the previous day's figure of 411 million.

There was selective support for those international companies regarded as partially immune to the political upheavals on the domestic front. Gains were recorded in Reuters, 14p higher at £11.41, BOC Group 2p to 667p, RTZ 4p to 574p and Wellcome 18p to £11.65.

ICI also hardened 9p to £11.58 despite a profit downgrading. Hoare Govett ahead of first quarter figures expected on April 30. These should reveal pretax profits of about £200 million. Despite the downgrading, Hoare remains positive about prospects for ICI.

Hanson, which owns almost 3 per cent of ICI, firmed 2½p to 215p ahead of a presentation for investors in New York. Hanson is seen as



another company insulated from the political worries at home.

Waste Management International made an encouraging start to first time dealings in a conditional market. The shares were offered at 5½ each by lead manager M&L Lynch valuing the entire company at £2.19 billion. It ended the session at 612p, a premium of 27p.

There was a flurry of speculative excitement in the banking sector as Midland Bank rose 12p to 347p on overnight reports from the Far

East claiming the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was ready to offer 411p a share. But the reports were later denied. Hongkong and Shanghai already owns 15 per cent of Midland and has plans a full merger.

There were also gains for Lloyds 4p to 359p, National Westminster 5p to 270p, Standard Chartered 2p to 437p and Barclays 1p to 295p, while Royal Bank of Scotland eased 2p 152p.

The oil sector was again a bright spot as the two-way pull on shares continued to

dominate sentiment. American investors have been big buyers of British oil companies in recent weeks. Further interest has also been generated by the heightening of tension in the Middle East which has boosted the crude price on world markets. Salomon Brothers and Schroder, Wurthelme have both been buying BP, 2½p cheaper at 252p.

But British brokers and fund managers are less enthusiastic about the oil sector and remain sellers. Enterprise Oil firmed 2p to 398p and Shell 1p to 458p while Lasso eased 3p to 195p.

Tesco, the supermarket chain, climbed 4½p to 255½p after weighing in with full year figures exceeding even the most optimistic City forecasts. Pre-tax profits soared £109.3 million to £545.5 million with operating margins up from 6.8 per cent to 7.1 per cent. Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, said there were signs that the recession was drawing to a close with food sales recovering from last year's depressed levels.

Next, the fashion retailer, celebrated a return to the black with a rise of 5p to 71p. The group reported pre-tax profits of £12.3 million against a loss last time of £40.7 million and expects to pay both an interim and final dividend. Sales, so far, this year are 7 per cent higher despite a reduction of 5 per cent in retail space.

The rest of the stores sector analysts are taking an encouraging view of long-term prospects for Thorn EMI down 1p at 746p, with both County NatWest WoodMac and Baring Securities recommending the shares as a buy. County has downgraded its profit estimates by 4 per cent, but still expects the re-rating of the shares to gather pace.

also made headway encouraged by reports that consumer confidence was growing. Among those companies to show plus-signs on the day were Argus 5p to 234p, Burton 1p to 37½p, Dimeas 6p to 196p, Kingfisher 2p to 463p, Marks and Spencer 5p to 284p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## NEW YORK

## Blue chips weakened by early profit-taking

New York — Blue chips were weak in the late morning because of profit-taking and the effect of Japanese share losses. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped by 13 points to 3,262.49.

□ Hong Kong — Shares staged a recovery in continued quiet trading as bargain-hunters took heart after Monday's rise that trimmed sharp, early losses. The Hang Seng index jumped 29.53 points to 4,926.43, while yesterday's turnover improved to HK\$1.77 billion (£131 million) from Monday's turnover of HK\$1.38 billion. Shares in HSBC Holdings, which was hurt recently by its planned merger with Britain's Midland Bank and its exposure to Olympia & York, the troubled property group, rose HK\$1 to HK\$39.25. HSBC Holdings is the parent company of the

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

□ Singapore — Share prices edged lower despite selective bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.34 points to 1,385.73 in thin volume of 22.15 million shares against the 32.4 million shares traded on Friday.

□ Frankfurt — Prices drifted down from their peaks, but still closed at their highest for nearly four weeks. The Dax index ended 4.80 higher at 1,739.42.

□ Sydney — The market closed stronger, but below its highs. It made big gains after overnight strength in New York and London and talk of a cut in interest rates. But Tokyo was again a negative influence. The all-ordinaries index closed 6.9 points up at 1,583.7.

(Reuters)

## TOKYO

## Nikkei drops below 18,000 to five-year low

Tokyo — Prices plunged and the Nikkei index closed below 18,000 for the first time since November 1986. The Nikkei ended down 644.82 points, or 3.5 per cent, at 17,791.55.

Arbitrage unwinding and institutional selling battered prices as most investors retreated to the sidelines amid a continuing dearth of buying incentives.

Arny Yip, of Baring Securities, said: "People have a feeling of total helplessness right now. Sitting on the sidelines, they see the Nikkei hitting new lows. Most prefer to be late (for the eventual recovery) than attempting to play the hero."

The Nikkei index fell to its lowest close since November

26, 1986, when it finished at 17,727.91. Turnover edged up to about 200 million shares compared with 192 million on Monday. Declining issues outnumbered rises by nearly nine to one, with 895 lower, 100 higher and 111 unchanged.

The market opened little changed, but then index-selling began, driving the Nikkei index lower while foreign bargain-hunting, which was the market's main prop, largely evaporated.

Banks extended sharp declines amid continuing worries about reserve requirements and loans exposure. Fuji Bank slumped ¥200 to ¥1,270 and Mitsubishi Bank ¥170 to ¥1,520.

(Reuters)

## WALL STREET

April 7, Monday

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October 2



## Tories share German burden

John Major's alibi finally appeared in Paris yesterday, although it may be too late to influence the jury. The OECD is preparing to cut its growth forecast for the world's main industrial countries as a whole this year because the recovery has, generally, been later in arriving than the organisation's economists expected. Norman Lamont, it seems, was not alone. Recovery will begin in earnest, but still slowly, in the second half, leaving the OECD's 2.2 per cent forecast for the year looking stranded.

Across the Atlantic, the IMF is predicting only 2 per cent for the world economy and for the European Community, rising to 3 per cent in Europe and 3½ per cent in America in 1993, but Michel Camdessus, its managing director, has admitted that plenty of fund directors think that that takes an excessively optimistic view of next year's prospects.

In both cases, one of the key reasons for caution is the continuing high level of Germany's short-term interest rates. These are keeping interest rates excessively high in other ERM countries, where high government borrowing also limits potential to stimulate the economy safely.

Jean-Claude Paye, the OECD's secretary general, has a picturesque way of rationalising this. It is, he suggests, a form of burden-sharing. "I consider German unification a historically important event, and one that is of benefit to us all, so it is not shocking and abnormal that a form of burden-sharing, mostly through interest rates, is occurring."

Since all the main parties contesting tomorrow's election are committed to the ERM, they might sagely nod agreement. Former Conservative MPs defending marginal seats might choose a less charitable form of words.

## Managing Waste

The message from Merrill Lynch, the American securities house handling the Waste Management International share issue, is that the mechanism of stabilisation tried out in last year's BT II issue and repeated here is the way flotations will work in future, so the market might as well get used to it. The system helps to ensure a stable aftermarket for all investors, but leaves the private investor not knowing quite what is happening.

Waste Management is not a complete rerun of the so-called "green shoe" used in BT II, in that the seller is not pledging to put up any extra shares that may be needed if the price rises. Instead, Merrill Lynch, as lead underwriter, will initially go short in its client's stock to meet oversubscription and buy spare shares that may come on the market as shares sell. The inherent risk will doubtless be reflected in its fees.

Stabilisation is the rule in American stock offerings and common in international issues, but it is barely known in the City. The Waste Management float has already required concessions from the Stock Exchange because of its curious hybrid nature, half placing and half tender offer.

The American house will not say by how much it will go short, or how long stabilisation will take place; it could last 30 days, but will most likely end earlier. Institutions trading on Seag can find out from their trading screens, as with BT II, and will, therefore, know when it comes to an end. Private investors will not.

Merrill Lynch says this is not a float aimed at the private investor. Too true, with stock being offered at more than 30 times' historic earnings. A chunk of shares is earmarked for the British retail market, but caution is advised.

**Richard Jeffrey says that Labour's tax plans would cripple the house market and personal wealth to create a recessionary spiral second to none**

If a Briton's home is his castle, then Labour's personal tax proposals have to be seen as the most severe assault yet launched on its structure. The shadow budget would reduce the incomes of families below retirement age by more than £1.6 billion, equivalent to a half per cent decline in consumer spending. These are the families critical to financing Britain's housing market. Two thirds of house-holders own their own homes, two thirds of these are mortgaged and the average mortgage is £48,000, costing about £400 per month net in interest. Mortgage payments therefore take about 30 per cent of the average family's after-tax income.

You can argue it is right that those on higher incomes should pay a higher proportion of earnings in tax. And, you can argue that many of the defects that have become evident in our economy after 18 months of recession stem directly from mistakes made by a Conservative chancellor, between 1987 and 1989. But Labour's plans for personal tax threaten to have a much more damaging impact on the quality of family life than anything the Conservatives have done over the past few years.

Labour's tax proposals appear to hit only those at the upper end of the income scale — if not the super-rich. This is far from the truth. A relatively small proportion of taxpayers would suffer, but they are by no means only the rich; better paid, yes; rich, not necessarily.

A large proportion of this group have had the benefit of tax cuts, but they have also had to cope with the consequent asset price inflation. For many this has meant accepting an extremely high level of mortgage borrowing. Most have survived the recession up to now but only by cutting current expenditure and contributing to the recession. Even the more prudent are now living close to the margin and their ability to pay the tax increases that will be demanded by John Smith has to be questioned. Many more could be forced into defaulting on their mortgage payments.

When the economy is viewed as a static system, it appears that as few as 10 per cent of taxpayers are hit. The web spreads dramatically when the economy is viewed as a dynamic system — with dire consequences. It is not possible to isolate one section of the community and pretend that the damage done to its financial circumstances will not hurt the economy as a whole.

The increases in personal taxation



Trying out the driving seat: a victorious Neil Kinnock could deliver a heavy blow to the house market

suggested by Labour are way too severe to be implemented in one step — there is no shock absorber within the system to help damp the initial impact of the change. Even those who believe in the general philosophy behind the tax proposals, including many Conservative voters who felt the 20-point cut in the top tax rate in 1988 was too great, must accept that Labour's current tax format would have disastrous consequences. Because of the way the economy reacts to sudden changes, these consequences would be more severe than the overheating from the 1987 and 1988 Budgets. The economy has a greater capacity to absorb more demand than it has to adapt to less.

The initial effect, at least, is clear. A proportion of the community finds the tax burden imposed on it is beyond its means, because, for many people, the cost of servicing a mortgage is the largest single outgoing each month and cannot be changed. Hundreds of thousands of such families will conclude that the only way to make ends meet is to sell and buy a cheaper house. In its current fragile state, however, the housing market does not have the capacity to absorb such an increase in supply,

particularly not at the top. The price of housing at the upper end of the market will collapse. The process will not be contained there. The housing market is a continuous system and the shock waves will move through the price range until the whole market has been affected.

In this economic cycle, we have already seen house prices fall 15 per cent or more in many areas. They could drop an additional 25 per cent. During this process, few of those who initiated the cascade will have been able to improve their finances. If they have been able to sell their homes, it is likely to have been at a big capital loss. The wealth of the personal sector will have slumped.

Just as the impact of higher taxes cannot and will not be contained in a small area of the housing market, so the shock waves will continue to spread throughout the economy. The resulting loss of wealth will hit confidence at a very sensitive stage of the economic cycle when morale is already at an extremely low ebb.

Loss of wealth is, in particular, bound to reduce household spending. It is debatable whether the fall in house prices seen to date has had much direct impact on consump-

tion, since it merely took the froth off the market. A further 25 per cent fall would cut housing values below purchase prices for about a third of homeowners, particularly those who have bought most recently. To a certain extent this will simply force the market to stagnate; but for those who have to move (either from financial necessity or because of, say, a change in work location), there will be a one-off financial loss. Many of the remainder will need to raise savings to compensate for the fall in house prices and the resulting decline in their wealth.

To this unholy mix must be added the likely extra ingredient of a base rate rise. The markets have already shown their distaste when faced with the prospect of a Labour government, driving sterling down to its limits in the exchange-rate mechanism. It is not unreasonable to think in terms of a 2 per cent rise in base rates at some time after a Labour election victory as the new chancellor has his nerve tested by foreign exchange markets sceptical of Labour's record on inflation.

For a family with an average £48,000 mortgage, a 2 per cent rise in the mortgage rate would raise interest repayments by almost £65 a

month after tax. This will be hard to find in household budgets already stretched by the recession. For those who have also been penalised by Labour's new tax regime, such amounts might be impossible.

Faced with this squeeze on incomes, families will have to cut discretionary spending, making a further fall in consumers' expenditure unavoidable. The top 20 per cent of earners in the UK, who would either suffer from Labour's tax plans or receive no benefit, account for more than 35 per cent of household spending. Savers, who benefit from higher interest rates, tend to be older and to have a lower marginal propensity to consume.

Many retailers, already hit hard over the 18 months, will find this new dip in demand delivers a mortal blow. The shock waves will not stop here. Consider the construction industry and institutions that rely on property to meet their commitments. With the economy entering a severe second recession, there will be more unemployment.

Faced by a further decline in consumption, a majority of companies will attempt to pare back spending on plant and machinery to a bare minimum, rather than increasing investment in response to Labour's incentives. Wages will come under further pressure. Nor will government finances escape unscathed; falling activity in the economy will reduce income tax, VAT and corporation tax receipts. A Labour government might still be able to meet its expenditure commitments, but only by borrowing more at higher interest rates or by raising taxation.

There will be some good news. Ironically, for those sceptical foreign exchange dealers, the balance of payments would swing into surplus. Inflation would fall and could even turn negative. Automatic stabilisers might be expected to damp the impact on the economy. Unfortunately, recent experience shows this is not the case. The economy's reaction to tax cuts pushed through by Nigel Lawson up to 1988 illustrates that when given an unanticipated shock, the economy becomes extremely unstable. Confronted with the opposite shock of sharply rising tax rates, the economy could be destabilised.

In the two years to the end of 1988, total domestic expenditure rose 13.5 per cent in real terms, about 8 per cent faster than the sustainable rate. The joint impact of Labour's proposed tax plans, a rise in the mortgage rate and a greater loss of confidence is likely to cut total domestic expenditure by a further 2.5 per cent before any recovery.

Instead of the spiralling inflation of the late Eighties, there will be a recessionary spiral. A spiral that will undermine personal sector incomes and wealth and which, when it is over, will leave the UK looking back on one of the worst periods in its economic history.

The author is head of research at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Betting on the election

LIFE — and the election — looks different through the eyes of a bookie. Ron Pollard, of Ladbrokes, the man who introduced political betting in 1963, was yesterday offering odds of 5/1 on a Labour victory, 3/1 against a Conservative win and 400/1 against a win by the Liberal Democrats. In the event of a hung parliament, he believes that both Major and Kinnock will stay on to lead their respective parties in the next general election, but if one party were to get an overall majority, he thinks that the leader of the other party would be forced to leave. As for likely successors, from Friday he will be offering odds on either Heseltine, Hurd and Clarke to replace Major, or Smith, Brown and Blair — "as an outsider" — to replace Kinnock. "Only one thing changes prices and that's money," says the intrepid Pollard. "Opinion polls don't change them at all." Not everyone, however, agrees with his judgment. At 11pm on Saturday, Pollard was contacted at home about a Stoke-on-Trent man who wanted to place a £14,000 bet on the Tories getting a majority. "He must be mad," concludes Pollard. "But if he is right, he stands to win £142,000." And late yesterday, a London man wagered £20,000, also on a Tory win. "It's the biggest bet of the election," Pollard says. "The odds are altering. I offered him 11/4. He stands to win £55,000 if they win."

**Tough near the top**  
MANAGERS at Grand Metropolitan are about to be warned. In a radio interview to be broadcast on LBC this evening, Sir Allen Sheppard,



"It amazes me how they do it"

the chairman, admits that he does not delegate. By way of explanation, he adds: "My people are too good to be delegated to. GrandMet attracts serious risk-takers, so I don't have to tell people what to do, they just get on with it." If they do not get on with it, he says: "It's more likely for a manager to be fired for not attempting to do something than for trying, doing it in a sensible way and getting it wrong. But obviously, if they make a habit of it, I'll amend their leaving party." It certainly is tough near the top.

### Hunting heads

BRITAIN'S top companies are preparing themselves for an eventual economic upturn. Sir John Trelawny, of Goddard Kay Rogers, the executive head-hunting consultancy that specialises in salaries of £60,000 plus, says business has increased by 26 per cent since August. He has also detected a trend in the specifications for chief executives away from the cost-cutting chartered accountants and hatchet men, so much in demand in the past two years, to the marketing-

trained, business getters and business builders, more usually associated with boom conditions. "The demand is now for general managers, with the ability to grow businesses, by acquisition and by opening new markets, rather than intensive care specialists," he says.

### Brewin buyout

AT THE height of Big Bang, when American banks were paying absurd premiums for London brokers, few would have envied the partners of Brewin Dolphin, one of the largest UK private client stockbrokers, who sold 75 per cent of their equity to the little known Scandinavian Bank. Four years on, and the picture looks different. While blue chip names such as Scrimgeour Vickers and Messels have lost their independence, Brewin Dolphin has re-emerged intact as an independent broker, through a £6 million management buyout, announced yesterday. According to John Hall, its managing director, Brewin Dolphin, which has concentrated on private client business, no longer feels the need for a heavyweight backer. He adds that because partners were tied in by shareholdings — they retained 25 per cent — the firm still has its old partnership team in place. He refuses to say how the buy-out price compares with what ScanBank paid, but insists that the Scandinavians have no grounds for complaint. "They've not had a tremendous return," he says ambiguously, "but we've been profitable throughout. By comparison with other people who bought securities firms, they've done pretty well." Sounds like Hall has done pretty well, too.

CAROL LEONARD

## Tax and the unpaid housewife

From Mr Gordon Nurse

Sir, I refer to the letter from Mr Owen (Business Letters, April 3) commenting on the inequitable consequences of Labour's tax proposals for the couple with two children where the husband is the sole earner with a net income of £35,000 compared with the couple with only one child where both parents are working and together earning the same amount.

Surely the solution is to permit couples to opt to split the earnings of the sole earner between them. Better still, allow all married couples the right to apportion their total earned income between them

in such proportions as they may choose, thus enabling them to decide on the most tax efficient formula for their particular circumstances.

This would not only remove the inequitable effect of a system which will be made worse if Labour's proposals are implemented, but would go some way to enable the couples who wished it to give tangible recognition to the valuable contribution made to both the particular family and society in general of the unpaid housewife.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON NURSE,  
11 Old Square,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

## Consider London

From Mr Robert Hurst

Sir, Although I applaud the candidacies of London and Frankfurt for the location of the proposed European Central Bank (April 3), the powers that be should not forget that one reason put forward for not locating the proposed Community Trade Marks Office (CTMO) in England or Germany is that we have the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Germany has the European Patent Office. In other words, it would be unfair for one EC member state to host two European institutions.

I have always considered this to be a somewhat infantile argument and we can but hope that the decision to consider London and Frankfurt as prime candidates for the European Central Bank reflects a new thinking on the part of the Council of Ministers to choose the best place for the job. Would the Council perhaps now like to consider London as a prime candidate for the CTMO?

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. HURST,  
DJ Freeman,  
43 Fetter Lane, EC4.

## Bank charges

From Mrs B. Woodcock

Sir, My husband opened a small business account with National Westminster Bank in January 1991, with free banking for one year. In November last, we telephoned the bank and were informed the free period was extended to March 1992. We have now received a letter telling us charges will be applied from June, at £14 per quarter and 99p per entry.

In the bank's literature of December 1991, small business charges were £6 per quarter, plus 64p per entry. How on earth can the bank justify such increases when inflation is approximately 4 per cent.

Our turnover was £32,000 last year, and the account has been constantly in credit by approximately £2,000. Is it any wonder the small businessman is suffering at the hands of such dictatorial actions? Can these rises really be justified?

The bank's literature carries the slogan: "We're here to make life easier!"  
Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA WOODCOCK,  
24 Portland Close, Bedford.



## United Friendly Group plc

### RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

- Dividend for the year increased by 20%.
- After tax profits of £16.4 million up 13%.
- Life profits improve to £10.7 million up 15%.
- New life annual premiums of £20.6 million.
- General business underwriting loss improved to £4.0 million from £5.0 million.

	1991 £m	1990 £m
Premiums — Life	165.8	155.8
— General	71.7	60.7
Life business profits	10.7	9.3
General branch underwriting loss	(4.0)	(5.0)
Investment income and other profits	13.4	14.5
Profit attributable to shareholders	15.6	14.5
Dividend per share	12.30p	10.25p
Earnings per share	20.20p	18.14p

The board recommends the payment of a final dividend of 8.10p per share to be paid on 29 May 1992 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 8 May 1992.

The notice for the annual general meeting to be held on 8 May 1992 and the 1991 annual report and accounts will be sent to shareholders on 14 April 1992. Copies of the annual report may be obtained from the Secretary.

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## RACING

# Arazi passes first test with flying colours

FROM RICHARD EVANS IN PARIS

THE dream lives on. At sunny Saint-Cloud yesterday, Arazi resumed where he left off at Churchill Downs on Breeders' Cup day by winning with an ease and style which suggests he could become a racing legend.

Despite being only 60 per cent fit, according to his trainer, Francois Boutin, the world's top juvenile last year showed that operations to two knees and five months off the racecourse have not dulled his brilliance or speed.

Admittedly, the seven horses which he beat on his seasonal reappearance in the Prix Omnium II are probably not exceptional, but the manner in which he demolished the opposition, combined with the post-race remarks of Steve Cauthe, Boutin and joint-owner Allen Paulson, should make the heart of the racing world beat faster today.

Settled in sixth place early on, Arazi and Cauthe shimmered past two horses down the back straight before turning left-handed and sweeping into the lead just before the 300-metre pole. The 5-1 on favourite never needed to get out of second gear as he won on the bridge by five lengths.

Cauthe is not a jockey who uses superlatives without reason and so his assessment after riding the "wonder horse" for the first time in public was fascinating.

He likened Arazi to Affirmed, on whom Cauthe won America's triple crown in 1978 — the greatest compliment he could pay.

"I have ridden a lot of good horses but this is the first horse I would start to compare with Affirmed, and he is the best horse I have ridden. Potentially, he has got the scope to be a great horse. He is so exciting. With most horses, you know their limitations. This horse is unlimited at the moment. You can't say how far he could go. He could do all sorts of things."



Boutin: confident of more improvement

The Kentucky Derby, on May 2, is the next stop for Arazi and Cauthe predicted that "barring bad luck, he should win." He is a best priced 5-4 with William Hill, and that could prove generous in three weeks' time.

"I am not saying the American horses are a bad bunch, but I don't know anything that stands out. He showed that he could do it last year. I would love to ride him in the Kentucky Derby but I unfortunately won't unless Pat Valenzuela gets sick."

If — and it remains a big if — Arazi then goes for the Derby at Epsom on June 3, Cauthe is confident he will handle the unique course's slopes and undulations. Ladbrokes offer odds of 3-1 without the provision and 4-1 against an historic Derby double.

"I have seen all sorts of horses come round Epsom as long as they are travelling well," Cauthe added.

Paulson, who sold 50 per cent of Arazi to Sheikh Mohammed for around \$9 million before that stunning success in Kentucky last November, clearly wants the horse to go for the triple crown. "American racegoers will crucify me if I don't go for it," he said.

The three races — Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes — carry a \$5 million bonus, put up by one of Paulson's companies.

However, he knows that Sheikh Mohammed is equally keen to win the Epsom classic for the first time.

Sadly, while Cauthe, Boutin and Paulson went out of their way after the race to help dozens of racing journalists from both sides of the Atlantic, no-one from the Sheikh's highly-paid entourage could be bothered to make an appearance.

Boutin, speaking through an interpreter, said: "During the winter the horse gained in strength. He had a long time off and I was a bit worried about him after his operation, but in the last two weeks he has shown himself to be how he was before. Despite the worries he has come through very well. After this race he will improve another 30 per cent."

## Saint-Cloud details

Going soft  
PRIX OMNIUM II (stated: 3-Y-O colts; 112.555.1m)  
1. ARAZI (S. Cauthe); 2. Supremacy (D. Boutin); 3. River Melody (C. Jussieu); 4. ALSO RAK: Volens (M. Sier); 5. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 6. Alibi (M. Sier); 7. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 8. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 9. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 10. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 11. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 12. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 13. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 14. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 15. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 16. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 17. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 18. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 19. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 20. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 21. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 22. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 23. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 24. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 25. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 26. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 27. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 28. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 29. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 30. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 31. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 32. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 33. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 34. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 35. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 36. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 37. Bessie Bell (M. Sier); 38. 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Support increased for Norster and Davies

# Welsh rebuild to give players a stronger platform

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Norster and Alan Davies, now confirmed as team manager and coach to Wales up to the 1995 World Cup, will find themselves the focal point of a completely revamped management structure designed to restore Wales to the plateau of international rugby, rather than the valleys the country has occupied of late.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) general committee meets tomorrow for the second time in eight days to discuss elements of the development plan drawn up by Jeff Young, the WRU's technical director. The first phase of Young's plan, already approved, is an interlinked structure directed by a new national player development committee, accountable to the union's general committee.

The most important facet Young, once an international hooker, has identified is the use of playing resources: the need to identify the most talented players and develop their skills for the benefit of the national side, reviving thereby public enthusiasm for the national game.

"We need a national player development committee with the necessary expertise and authority to plan, direct, evaluate and monitor all the administrative, organisational and technical elements associated with the effective performance of national senior squads," Young said. "The great thing is to have time available during the domestic season to prepare squads properly."

"Part of the forward planning is to minimise the conflict of loyalties for players, by

integrating representative and club fixtures." Already the new committee recognises the benefit of a Heineken League with divisions formed of no more than ten clubs, as it is now, rather than as it will be next season, enlarged to 12-club divisions, and has expressed the hope that there will be a reversion to ten-club divisions by 1993-4.

A complete representative programme has been drawn up for senior, development and under-21 squads, each with its own management team. As in Australasia, the team manager will operate in an organisational capacity, leaving selection and coaching to three other individuals. A four-year rolling cycle will take the national side on an important tour at two-year intervals, the development squad on an annual tour and B and under-21 tours at appropriate intervals.

The player development committee will have its own budget and, in the words of Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, who, with Young, John

McLean, Ron Waldron and John Ryan, makes up the committee, "will have the authority to make decisions quickly".

There is little doubt that Norster and Davies have been persuaded by the union's prompt action, as well as by the players themselves, to remain in position. "There is clearly a commitment that the structure will be put in place and that will relieve the burden I was worried about carrying," Davies said.

There has already been informal discussion about gathering information on opponents Wales will meet during the next three years. "We have included a substantial amount in the technical department budget to keep ourselves aware of what is going on in other parts of the world," Young said.

There is, for example, the possibility of sending members of the national management team to Australia this summer, when Scotland and New Zealand are on tour there, given that Australia is Wales's next international opponents.

Norster acknowledges that he could not take on the team manager's role without the support of his employers, Chartered Trust, and that his career with the finance company will be effectively on hold over the next three years. Davies, who runs his own marketing and leisurewear company, is moving lock, stock and barrel from Nottingham to Wales. Like the development agencies at the heads of the valleys, they are hoping to restore a smile to the scarred face of the land.



Norster: career on hold

## ANC puts end to visa deadlock

BY CHRIS THAU

AN INTERVENTION by the African National Congress (ANC) shadow minister for sport, Steve Tshwete, has broken a deadlock over visas for six South African players who have been invited to play for the World XV as part of the New Zealand rugby union centenary celebrations.

While Tshwete was in Australia and New Zealand for the cricket World Cup, Muleki George, the chairman of the National Olympic and Sports Congress (Nosc), the sporting arm of the ANC, wrote to the governing bodies of Australia, New Zealand, France and England demanding a ban on the planned tours to and from the Republic.

He claimed the development programme launched by the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) last weekend was a smokescreen to provide cover for the international aspirations of the white establishment.

George also said that the Springbok badge would cease to be the symbol of South African sport, and would be replaced by the protea, an indigenous flower.

George's assertions were both denied. Danie Craven, the Sarfu president, said millions of rands had been spent to develop the game in deprived areas, and the Nosc

chairman, Sam Ramsamy, said that a decision on the Springbok badge will be taken this month.

But in New Zealand, George's letter caused concern that the rugby football union chairman, Eddie Tonks, met the prime minister to explain the background to the problem, and the New Zealanders were unwilling to issue visas to the South African players without the approval of an ANC official.

Nothing moved until Tshwete picked up the phone and provided the required guarantees for the visas to be issued.

Among the South African players to be invited is Naas Botha, the stand-off half. Simon Poidevin, the Australian flanker, has also been asked to join the party.

Brian Lochore, the coach of the world team, which will play three games against New Zealand, said the two had been approached after Michael Lynagh, of Australia, and Peter Winterbottom, of England, withdrew.

Lochore has secured the Scottish scrum half, Andy Nicol, in place of his original choices from England, Dewi Morris and Richard Hill. The three matches are in Christchurch, on April 18, Wellington, on April 22 and Auckland, on April 25.

## New date causes problems

BY PETER BILLS

SENIOR Harlequins, who had hoped to have a complete break over the Easter holiday period, will decide this weekend whether to play in the rearranged match with Orrell on Easter Monday, which could settle the Courage Clubs Championship.

"All our players feel very aggrieved they have been put in this position," Simon Halliday, the England wing, said. "Some of us had looked forward to going away, especially the England players who have had such a long, hard season. But we don't want to be accused of throwing a match because we couldn't be bothered to turn up. It is unfair to have dumped us with the problem."

Halliday says they recognise their obligations to Bath and Northampton, Orrell's only challengers, but that the decision will probably be made on the basis of how the club wishes to plan its build-up to the Pilkington Cup final on May 2. The players may feel that as most of them will be returning to London anyway later on the Monday for work the next day, to return a few hours earlier might be the right decision in terms of ensuring Orrell get a stiff examination.



Alternative route: Plaatjes, who hopes to enter the Barcelona Olympic Games via London

## Plaatjes seeks recognition

BY DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

MARK Plaatjes would prefer not to be running in the ADT London Marathon this weekend. He would rather be in Columbus taking part in the United States trial for the Olympic Games. But he was granted political asylum in the US a few months too late.

"We were given various assurances that he would be declared eligible for the trial, but nothing has come of that," Glenn Latimer, his manager, said.

Columbus's loss is London's gain. Plaatjes, whose quickest run is 2hr 08min 58sec, only two minutes outside the world best, is ready to unleash a quick time.

"Sunday will be my Olympics, I suppose," he said. "I am probably in the best shape I have ever been."

Long shot though it is, Plaatjes has not thrown in the Olympic towel yet. South African-born but now stateless while awaiting US citizenship, he has asked

Ollan Cassell, the executive director of The Athletics Congress, the US governing body, to explore whether he might run under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) flag.

"The former Soviet athletes are competing under the flag and I do not see why I cannot," Plaatjes said. "I qualify for three reasons: I have political asylum, I am stateless and I have made the A [qualifying] standard."

He sees an impressive victory in London on Sunday as his last chance. "It is a wonderful opportunity to get some people to ask some questions," he said. "Maybe that would get the IOC to think about it."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation did, after all, change the qualifying time to accommodate Gelindo Bordin and Steve Monaghan. "At the Winter Olympics there were people on the rostrum listening to the Olympic anthem, with the Olympic flag flying," Latimer said. "Why could not the precedent apply to Mark?"

Though his best time was set in 1985, Plaatjes ran two good marathons last year, winning Los Angeles in 2:10.29 and finishing second in Berlin in 2:11.01. He has been running the circuit since early in 1988, when he was granted political asylum but, because he is serving a five-year wait for citizenship, he cannot compete for the US until next year. The irony is that South African athletes may now compete in the Olympics before he does.

"He was granted asylum based on persecutions and threats to his life in South Africa," Latimer said. He had refused to toe the line of the South African Council of Sport (Sacos), the radical mixed-race body favouring the retention of sanctions. "Sacos was arguing that athletes like Mark should give up their athletic careers for the cause," Latimer said.

Being a runner has saved Plaatjes's life, and is now helping to keep his brother alive. Once, on national strike day, he was training with a friend near Soweto

when a mob mistook them for strike-breakers. "They were going to necklace us," Plaatjes said. In other words, put a rubber tyre around them, douse them in petrol and set them on fire. "We probably ran a 3:30 mile to get away."

Last year he learned that his brother, who brought him up, had cancer. Since then he has spent \$20,000 of his earnings from running on treatment. "They only gave him five months to live and that was March last year," Plaatjes said.

Plaatjes lives with his wife and two daughters in Boulder, Colorado, the altitude training home of many a distance runner. Among them is Britain's Steve Jones, who has benefited from Plaatjes's services as a physiotherapist and trainer with him.

Favour not returned. Jones holds the London course record at 2:08.15. "I had supper at his house on Friday and he did not give me any tips," Plaatjes said. Jones evidently believes that the man with no passport is flying.

## BOWLS

### Stanley hang on to reach triples final

BY GORDON ALLAN

CHRIS Palmer, John Thurbuck and John Leeman, of the Stanley club, Durham, advanced to the final of the Manchester Unity EIBA triples championship at Melton Mowbray yesterday. They defeated Tony Manton, David Wade and Andrew Hunter, of Kingshorpe, Northampton, 21-16 after all but losing a 14-0 lead.

Kingshorpe's first scoring end produced five, and they cut Stanley's lead to a single shot going into the seventh, at which they dropped three. That enabled Stanley to play a defensive eighth.

Stanley's opponents today will be Ray Gaskins, Gary Harrington and Ted Hanger, of Wade and Andrew Hunter, of Kingshorpe, Northampton, 21-16 after all but losing a 14-0 lead. The pairs championship began last night with Gary Smith, of Cyphers — the winner last year with Andy Thomson — teaming with Brian Vickers while Thomson plays in Australia.

Also in the field are Terry Scott and Davie Webb, of Gateshead, the champions two years ago.

RESULTS: Triples: Quarter-finals: Kingshorpe 16, Stanley 21; Pairings: Kingshorpe 16, Stanley 21.

## BRIDGE

### Forrester favoured in Paris challenge

BY ALBERT DORMER

SEVEN British players, a gratifyingly high number, have been invited by the European Bridge League (EBL) to contest a new championship, the General Individual, in Paris next month. The field includes Omar Sharif.

Leading the British challenge is Tony Forrester. He is considered by many to be Europe's strongest player but this is based on performance with regular partners, notably Andy Robson, who is also invited.

Sally Horton will be strongly fancied to carry off the women's prize. Other British invitees who passed the EBL's rigorous master-point criteria are Nicola Smith, Sandra Landy, Tony Sowter and Roman Smolski.

Some observers consider that individual tournaments may be the wave of the future. Players faced with a new partner in each round have no

time to discuss elaborate systems, so simple methods hold sway.

This is seen as raising interest in top performers at grass roots level, which at present is at a low ebb because of impenetrable bidding systems in use.

In addition, it is harder to cheat in an individual contest. With £725,000 (£25,000) to be won in Paris, this has to be a consideration. In two recent championships, however, the Bermuda Bowl in Tokyo and the North American championships in Pasadena, what is a nightmare for the organiser arose, namely the use of secret signals.

Bridge players wishing to contest the pro-am on the final day in Paris, May 15, are invited to contact the British Bridge League secretary, Anna Gudge, on 0787-75720.

## SPORTS MEDICINE

### Council grant will help clinics

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE new National Sports Medicine Institute (NSMI) is to establish an accredited network of regional clinics to improve the quality of service in Britain. Greg McLatchie, the first medical director of the NSMI based at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said yesterday that a number of established centres would be used and pumped with funds for development.

The Sports Council is allocating more than £300,000 this year for sports medicine and a 200 per cent increase over 1991-2, some of which will go on extra equipment and facilities at selected centres. However, it is hoped that local medical authorities or hospitals will invest in sports clinics when they realise how, in the long term, these could be cost effective.

There will be at least five regional centres: in the North East at Harlepool, Durham and Sunderland; in Liverpool, in the capital, using the flourishing set-up at the London Hospital; in Cardiff, where the Welsh secretary has agreed to provide funding; and probably in Nottingham. Each centre will have slightly different priorities and many of the existing sports injury clinics in NHS hospitals could act as satellites to these regional centres.

This will certainly bring some order to the chaos that exists in British sports medicine where there is no overall strategy despite the excellent work of individuals and clinics. Each regional centre would have formal links with the local university or polytechnic with a laboratory accredited by the British Association of Sports Science. This would provide the necessary academic backing and a place for research.

The NSMI is to ask the national governing bodies and local health authorities for their requirements. Sporting organisation will almost certainly put a priority on quick and effective treatment for injuries and a network of centres will certainly help.

The NSMI will initiate research, and promote the importance of sports medicine and particularly education.

McLatchie, a consultant in general and peripheral vascular surgery in Harlepool where he established a sports medicine clinic, was the official doctor to the British karate team, a former British universities weightlifting champion, a marathon runner and a well-known author.

"It is said that sports medicine has been so fragmented over the last ten to 15 years," he said. "However, now there is a sense of purpose and the fact that the NSMI has been founded will draw everyone together."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Council is likely to decide at its next meeting, in Toronto on May 29, whether to submit the Katrin Krabbe doping case to its arbitration panel. According to the IAAF vice-president, Arne Ljungqvist, who is also head of their medical committee, the council could take such action if it disagrees with the German Athletics Federation's decision to lift the four-year ban.

## TENNIS

### Cash seeks entry to Wimbledon

Tokyo: Pat Cash is to test his theory that former champions should automatically be granted wild cards at Wimbledon by requesting one for the championships this year (Barry Wood writes).

Although he will prepare for Wimbledon at Beckenham and Queen's, Cash's tennis interests are restricted to weekend games next month for a second division German league club in Hamburg. He is building a musical production studio at his London home, and is hoping to include Yannick Noah in a laser music show set to tennis.

Meanwhile, Monique Javer reached the quarter-finals of the Japan Open with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Catarina Lindqvist.

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## EQUESTRIANISM

### Davidson sees his chance

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

BRUCE Davidson, of the United States, riding last year's winning horse, The Irishman II, will be one of the leading overseas contenders for the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy at this year's Badminton Horse Trials from May 7 to 10.

The trials, which this year have a first prize of £20,000 and a prize fund of £100,000 — a record in the sport — have attracted 115 entries from ten countries. New Zealand's entry includes Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, with his 1990 Burghley winner, Face The Music, Blyth Tait, the world champion, with Messiah, and Andrew Nicholson, a member of their 1990 gold-medal winning team, with Fast Polisher.

Davidson, the winner of the world championships in 1974 and 1978, has long nursed an ambition to win

the world's premier three-day event. Since finishing runner-up in 1982 on JJ Babu, the closest he has come is sixth in 1986 — again on JJ Babu. In The Irishman, whom he hopes to ride at the Olympic Games, Davidson, aged 42, has a horse to match his experience. The 13-year-old gelding has completed Badminton four times.

The British challenge is led by Virginia Leng, a former world and triple European champion, on her 1989 Badminton winner, Master Craftsman. She, like Mary Thomson with King William, needs a good performance at Badminton to secure her Olympic team place.

The European champion, Ian Stark, Karen Dixon (nee Straker), and Richard Walker have all been excused Badminton with their top horses after their gold-medal win-

ning performance at the European championships last year. Stark, however, intends to compete. "It's my last year of sponsorship by the Edinburgh Woolen Mill and I would very much like to have a horse there," the Scot, aged 38, said yesterday.

He will decide which of the two "exempted" horses he rides — Glenburnie, his European champion, or Murphy Himself, last year's runner-up at Badminton — after competing at Belton and Brigstock Horse Trials. Dixon hopes to ride her young horse, Stepney Bartholomew, after his encouraging performance at Kings Somborne last weekend. Powell has been quick to replace The Irishman. He has three entries — Limmy's Comet, a winner at Kings Somborne, The Fisherman and Valiant.

## Law experiences pain and pleasure

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN HYERES, FRANCE

CHRIS Law and his Soling crew of Chris Mason and Jerry Richards experienced equal measures of pain and pleasure on their chosen road to the Olympics before crashing out of the British trials at Hyeres yesterday.

San Diego: The burning desire of Bill Koch, the syndicate head and main financier, to steer his own yachts in the America's Cup defender trials is an in-built weakness of his thorough \$55 million campaign that can be only good news for the challengers (Bob Ross writes).

Although Koch has what should be the fastest yachts in Kanua and America, Dennis Conner's older yacht, Stars &

The British trio recovered from a lowly 36th on Monday to win the second race, just ahead of Laurie Smith, but then stumbled back to finish the third race in the mid-thirties.

Law, who is making a last-minute thrust for Olympic honours in a class in which he finished fourth in the 1980

Games, has to finish sixth or higher among the foreign teams competing at this French pre-Olympic regatta to qualify for the British match-race selection finals, which are scheduled for Poole later this month.

He and his crew could discard one bad performance but this second poor result

as well. He has been sailing only eight years and, although a competent helmsman in moderate winds, is messy through tacks and around marks. It is this desire to be a helmsman, not a passenger, that is complicating his campaign.

Koch has a splendid grasp of the technology but has not handled the human element

now almost certainly puts them out of the frame for Poole.

By contrast, Smith and his crew of Rob Cruickshank and Ossie Stewart counted a seventh to lead the championship overall and now look assured of winning the British trials.

In the other races yesterday, Stuart Childerley won the Finn class and Barrie Edgington lies second overall among the wind-surfers after counting a third and tenth yesterday.

Penny Way holds third place overall in the women's class following her eleventh and second-place scores.

In the 470 fleet, Paul Brotherton and Andy Hemmings finished eighth yesterday but the Times/Minet Supreme Award winners lead the series overall.

Results, page 31

FRANCE	Chamonix	(G)
Chatal	.....	(R)
La Clusaz	.....	(G)
Megève	.....	(S)
Tignes	.....	(S)
AUSTRIA	Brand	(N)
Ischgl	.....	(G)
Sölden	.....	(G)
Westendorf	.....	(S)
SWITZERLAND	Galeud	(G)
Klosters	.....	(R)
St Moritz	.....	(S)
Zermatt	.....	(R)
ITALY	C d'Ampezzo	.....
Ortisei	.....	(R)
UNITED STATES	Aspen	.....
Vail	.....	.....







England international denies rumours

## Platt's priority is to help Bari avoid the drop

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

DAVID Platt yesterday refuted rumours that he will be joining Napoli for £5.7 million this summer and insisted his only concern was to help keep his present football club, Bari, in Serie A of the Italian League.

The England midfielder player, who joined Bari from Aston Villa last summer but has already been linked with Roma and Juventus, said his only interest in Napoli — Diego Maradona's old club — was beating them this weekend to boost Bari's survival chances. With seven matches left to play, 16th-placed Bari are in serious danger of dropping into Serie B and Platt said: "All I am interested in is Bari staying in Serie A. Suddenly three consecutive defeats have made the job harder, but I still believe that we will stay up, particularly if we beat Napoli at home."

"We need the Bari supporters to be totally behind us, particularly during the last three home games. They have been wonderful during this difficult season and we intend to repay them with effort and commitment and hopefully two points on Sunday."

"At times of problems it is important to stand together. I am captain of the team and it is my responsibility to set the right example to my teammates. This I will do."

"But we must all be positive. Once we can overcome the problems of this season, Bari will then grow stronger with every passing year until it becomes one of the top clubs in Italy."

"Our president has a vision of success and everyone at the club wants to help him achieve it."

"I love Italy and the football out here, but the speculation is incredible. According to certain newspapers I have already signed for half-a-dozen other Italian clubs."

Platt's old club will have to do without Dwight Yorke for its Easter programme. Aston Villa's leading scorer will miss the first division matches at Nottingham Forest on April 18 and at home to Chelsea on Easter Monday in order to represent Trinidad and Tobago in their World Cup qualifier against Barbados on April 19. He flies out to the Caribbean next week.

Trevor Steven seems destined to remain in the south of France with Marseilles rather than return to Glasgow and Rangers. The England international midfielder player joined Marseilles from Rangers for £5.5 million last August but the French club still owed the final installment and Rangers had warned that he would become their property again unless they paid up by May 31.

But yesterday Marseilles agreed to pay the remaining £2.5 million, and keep Steven. After talks in Edinburgh with a French delegation, David Murray the owner of Rangers, said yesterday: "We are delighted the matter has been concluded successfully."

"We would have taken Trevor back if Marseilles had not come up with the money for we would not have seen him left out in the cold. This is the end of the matter as far as we are concerned."

□ **Bonus:** Jupp Heynckes, the former German international, yesterday confirmed that he would sign a two-year contract on Saturday as coach of Athletic Bilbao, the Spanish first division club, from the start of next season.

"If I don't leave Germany now, I will never do so," Heynckes, aged 46, said, revealing that he had rejected several offers from Bundesliga clubs. Heynckes, who played 39 times for West Germany in the 1970s, was dismissed by Bayern Munich, as coach, last October.

Heynckes said that Barcelona's Dutch coach, Johan Cruyff, had encouraged him to move to Bilbao. Cruyff told him: "You have to take that job. It (Bilbao) is one of the best organised clubs in the Spanish League."

## Pearce doubts increase

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIME is running out for Stuart Pearce in his bid to lead Nottingham Forest in the Rumbelows Cup final on Sunday. He is out of tomorrow night's game at Southampton, the fourth match he has missed since damaging a knee against them in the ZDS Cup, 10 days ago.

Pearce is recovering from surgery but since his operation, two more key defenders, Gary Charles and Steve Chettle, have joined their inspiring captain on the injury list.

Forest have slogged through four games in a week, but it has not stopped their manager, Brian Clough, strongly criticising his back line which has allowed in ten goals in those four games.

Clough said: "I'm absolutely fed up with it. I know we've been stretched a bit in the last week or so but I've never come across a side yet who got anywhere by letting in goals at the rate we are at the moment."

Clough's patched-up team, also likely to be without Roy Keane and Teddy Sheringham, who are both injured, tomorrow night, faces a Southampton side which has won its last six league games to climb out of relegation trouble.

Ian Branfoot, the manager, is still without Matthew Le Tissier and Barry Horne, suspended, but would love some revenge for the ZDS defeat in extra time at Wembley.

Clough is adamant about his priority at The Dell: "I'd like to get back to something resembling a clean sheet," he said. He may be tempted to give the goalkeeper, Mark Crossley, the chance to stake a Rumbelows Cup claim.

Crossley was replaced by 20-year-old Marriott after his error put Forest out of the FA Cup at Portsmouth. It was later revealed that Crossley had spent the previous night in police custody.

Orlando McDonald's Corporation said it would become the ninth sponsor of the 1994 World Cup. "This represents our first global sponsorship of a sporting event," David Green, vice-president of marketing, said in Orlando on Monday.

A full sponsorship of the World Cup gives companies four signboards. McDonald's agreed to a two-board sponsorship, estimated to cost \$18-20 million. McDonald's joins Canon, Coca-Cola, Fuji, Gillette, JVC, MasterCard, Mars, and Phillips. One sponsorship spot remains open.

The month-long tournament, starting June 17, 1994, expects to draw 3.5 million fans and 31 million television viewers.

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10/1	7-12	7/1	
20/1	13-18	8/1	
25/1	19-24	12/1	
33/1	25-30	14/1	
50/1	31-36	25/1	
66/1	37-42	50/1	
80/1	43-48	66/1	
100/1	49-54	100/1	
300/1	55-60	300/1	

NO OVERALL MAJORITY: 5/13

To gain an overall majority  
11/10 LABOUR 7/1 CONSERVATIVE  
To win most seats  
1/5 LABOUR 3/1 CONSERVATIVE  
400/1 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

No. of Liberal Democrats Seats			
0 1000/1	16-20	4/1	36-40
1-5 100/1	21-25	9/4	41-45
6-10 33/1	26-30	9/4	46-50
11-15 20/1	31-35	3/1	51-60

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Different class: Arazi treats his Saint-Cloud rivals with disdain as he wins unextended by five lengths

## Arazi's owners still at odds

FROM RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

ARAZI was made hot favourite for the Derby on both sides of the Atlantic after a breathtaking seasonal reappearance in France yesterday.

But the unanswered question last night was whether Allen Paulson and Sheikh Mohammed, joint owners of the "wonder horse", will be able to reach agreement on where the horse runs.

Paulson, who sold half of

Arazi to the Dubai sheikh last summer for an estimated \$9 million, is anxious to win the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 2 before attempting to complete the other two legs of the American Triple Crown. Victory in the three races carries a \$5 million bonus.

Sheikh Mohammed has never had a horse even placed in the Epsom Derby despite an investment in bloodstock running into hundreds of millions of pounds and he is desperate for Arazi to run in

the world's most famous race on June 3, after his Kentucky appearance.

A decision over Arazi's race programme will be taken after he runs at Churchill Downs next month. Francois Boutin, trainer of the world's best horse, may have to arbitrate if the owners cannot agree.

Paulson said after yesterday's race: "American racegoers will crucify me if I don't go for the Triple Crown."

Ladbrokes offer events, with a run, against Arazi winning

at Epsom while Corals go 3-1 without the proviso. William Hill offer a best-priced 5-4 against a Kentucky Derby victory.

Steve Cauthen, who guided Arazi to an effortless victory in the Prix Omnium II at Saint-Cloud, compared the Blushing Groom colt to Affirmed, on whom he won the Triple Crown in 1978. "It is like riding in a Cadillac," he said. "Potentially, he has the scope to be a great horse."

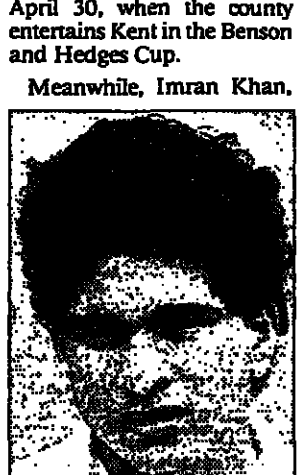
Full report, page 29

## Tendulkar likely to miss five games

SACHIN Tendulkar, Yorkshire cricket club's first overseas signing, is likely to miss the first five matches of the season. The Indian Test batsman, aged 18, is contracted to play in Bombay.

Though the Yorkshire chief executive, Chris Hassell, is aiming to solve the problem, it seems Tendulkar's first appearance will be delayed until April 30, when the county entertains Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan,



Tendulkar: start delayed

the Pakistan captain, hinted that the shoulder injury that troubled him during the World Cup might prevent him from playing in his side's tour of England this summer.

"I damaged the shoulder a lot playing in Australia for about five weeks," he said in a television interview in Islamabad yesterday. "The post-Imran era may come very soon."

□ This year's winners of the NatWest Trophy will receive a record prize of £27,500 — around £5,000 more than Pakistan collected for beating England in the World Cup final. Total prize-money for cricket's premier one-day knockout competition this summer has been increased to £73,350 — up £2,500 on last year.

Hampshire, the champions, are at home to Dorset in the first round on June 24.

The close of play has been extended from 7.30pm to 8pm to accommodate delayed or interrupted matches this season and over-rate fines have also been increased.

## Tszyu could be a contender

IT TOOK just 70 seconds to convince Australian professional boxing that the young Russian junior welterweight, Kostya Tszyu, was, in the words of the country's top trainer, "a kid in a million".

Johnny Lewis, trainer of Jeff Fenech, the world champion, had told Tszyu before his first professional bout that he had to win the first round to show his opponent he was the master.

"I wanted him to show off his skills for a few rounds," Lewis said. "He misunderstood; he thought I wanted him to finish it quickly."

A flurry of lefts and rights put Darrell Hiles, Australia's leading boxer at the weight, out for the count.

The contest in Melbourne was Tszyu's first since arriving in Australia from his Urals home in Serov, 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow, to join the Lewis boxing stable. A month later Tszyu dispelled any lingering doubts about his professional potential when he demolished Ned Simmonds, the tough Guyanese Canadian, in just 58 seconds.

Lewis, who has helped

Fenech win world titles in three divisions, had been excited by Tszyu's skills when he watched him fight as an amateur in Moscow three years ago. "In many years of watching amateur boxing I had never seen his equal," Lewis said.

In November Tszyu came to Sydney and outpointed American Vernon Forrest with breathtaking ease to win the light-welterweight (63.5kg) gold at the world amateur championships.

"Pound for pound he's the best I have ever seen, which isn't a bad qualification for turning professional," Lewis said.

The 22-year-old Russian southpaw was already a hero back home with a formidable amateur record — a world title, three European championships and a US Goodwill Games gold medal in his record of 259 wins in 270 fights.

With the help of local promoter Bill Morley, Tszyu was persuaded to give up the chance of almost certain gold at this year's Barcelona Olympics to turn professional under Lewis.

## A rough ride for home captain

FROM RICHARD STREETON  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

RAUCOUS booing by the 11,000 spectators greeted Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, as he walked out to bat against South Africa in the first of the one-day cricket internationals here yesterday. It was an unprecedented demonstration against a captain by a home crowd.

Richardson was clearly blamed for the West Indies lack of success in the World Cup and for recent controversial selection policies.

The booing and jeers continued unabated as Richardson made a sketchy start before the pressure on him was eased as Phil Simmons made a brilliant, attacking hundred. South Africa, who chose to field first, were helpless as they tried to stem the flow of runs. West Indies finished with 287 for six in their 50 overs.

When Simmons finally skied a catch to extra cover in the 43rd over, he had hit five sixes and twelve fours and faced only 113 balls as he made 122. Most of his runs came from fiercely struck drives. One of his sixes, a straight hit against Henry, went out of the ground.

Richardson had to come through a torrid examination by Donald before he began to find his touch. He sensibly allowed Simmons his head as he contributed 30 of the 105 they added for the third wicket. Richardson was then leg before to Kuiper and returned to the pavilion amid further booing.

Overcast, humid conditions before the sun emerged later may have persuaded West Indies to give West Indies first use of a hard pitch, which, though, played more slowly than expected. Donald's direction was variable as he strove for maximum pace and the first round definitely went to West Indies. They reached 64 for one in the crucial first 15 overs.

Lara batted fluently from the start and continued to find the gap after Haynes was out in the seventh over. Haynes flicked Donald off his legs and Henry took a good catch at backward square leg.

Henry, the left-arm spinner, did not get much help from his trajectory skillfully. The second wicket had added 72 in 17 overs when Henry induced Lara to drive a catch to mid on.

Outside the ground before the start the first protest on the tour had come when a van with two loudspeakers on its roof drove past blaring the message: "Don't let cricket fool you. Cricket doesn't solve anything. We want black majority rule in South Africa and Nelson Mandela for president." Most of the spectators waiting to enter the ground hardly seemed to notice the incident.

WEST INDIES  
D.L. Henry c Henry b Donald 50  
D.L. Henry c Wessels b Henry 50  
P.V. Simmons c Wessels b Kuiper 122  
R.I. Richardson lbw b Kuiper 30  
K.L. T. Adair c Wessels b Donald 27  
C.L. Hooper not out 28  
W.K.M. Benjamin c Wessels b Kuiper 8  
C.E.L. Ambrose not out 22  
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 12, nb 4) 22  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 287  
D. Williams, A.C. Cummins and B.P. Patterson did not bat  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-104, 3-206, 4-238, 5-277, 6-286  
BOWLING: Donald 10-1-47-2, Stiel 10-1-59, P.V. Simmons 10-2-53-1, Henry 10-0-53-1, Crouse 10-1-47-2, Adair 10-1-22-2, Kuiper 5-0-33-5, SOUTH AFRICA: W.C. Wessels, A.C. Cummins, J.N. Krieger, A.P. Kuiper, W.J. Groenewald, P.N. Rhodes, D. Henry, D.L. Richardson, C.J.P. van Zyl, R.P. Small, A.A. Donald.  
Umpires: S. Bucknor and G. Johnson.

## Watson moves back into Masters contention

FROM MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

TOM Watson believes that being appointed the American Ryder Cup captain has improved his play and increased his prospects of winning the 56th Masters, which starts at Augusta National here tomorrow.

Watson, winner of the Masters in 1977 and 1980, brought an end to five years without a win when he captured the Hong Kong Open last month. The five-times Open champion is the first to admit that winning the Masters is a different proposition, but he is convinced that

he has, at the age of 42, a wonderful chance.

"I was honoured to be made the Ryder Cup captain," he said. "In a way I really believe it's helped my play. I've been watching other players with the match in mind, and somehow the distraction seems to have helped me."

"It seems like this year I've not been hitting the ball particularly well, but I've been getting the job done. I think I'm a little more relaxed about it and it's helping. I'm finding that I'm playing each hole as an event in itself rather than trying to think of the swing too much."

Watson became preoccupied with his alignment, grip

and swing during his slump. Twelve months ago Watson came within a whisker of turning his career around when he stood on the 18th tee at Augusta sharing the lead with Ian Woosnam. He had had eagles at the 13th and the 15th. But Watson pushed his drive with a three-wood into the woods and finished with a six.

"If it was the only thing I was ever known for then, I would get tired of talking about it," Watson said. "I'm sure would have been tougher to take if I hadn't all the victories to even things out. Then again, losing last year's Masters is one of my great disappointments."

Watson said it was not the

three-wood shot alone which cost him the chance of winning. "I hit a stupid second shot," he said. "I should have laid up 40 yards or so short of the bunker, when instead I hit it into the trap where my ball was dead."

Watson has found it increasingly difficult to handle the pressure when in contention. In Hong Kong he held a healthy lead but he took three putts on three occasions, which illustrated the frailty of his putting stroke.

Even so, he putted well in The Players Championship two weeks ago when he finished joint-second with Nick Faldo behind Davis Love III. He also scored a 63 earlier this year in San Diego, where

he was watched in a tournament for the first time by his children. "It inspired me," he said. "It gave me more desire to play well."

Watson has always played well at Augusta. He has finished out of the top ten only three times in 17 appearances as a professional. "I've always felt that I had a pretty good game plan to play the course," he said.

"Augusta is a special golf course with a lot of history. I've been fortunate to play well here and I have a lot of memories. I would like another one this week, but then everybody would, wouldn't they?"



Watson: more relaxed

Masters focus, page 29





MODERN TIMES

Glamorous  
and sordid  
lives of  
Mafia women



# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992

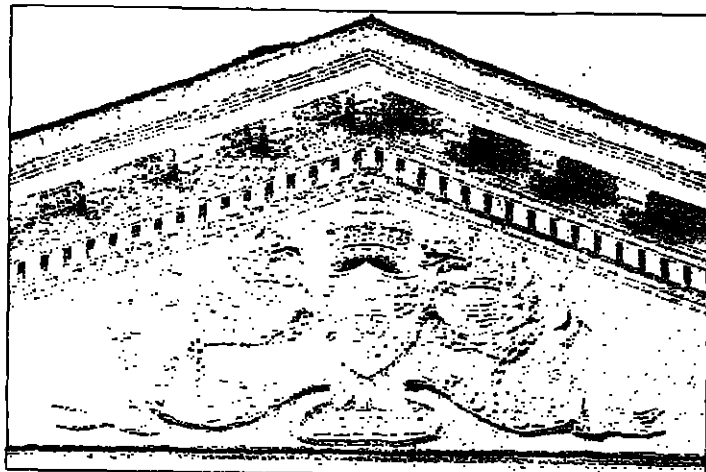
SCIENCE

Quarrying:  
threat to  
the British  
countryside



A rough  
ride for  
home  
captain

## The marks of Spencer's reign



The Spencer family motto, 'God defend the right'

**George Hill considers the inheritance of the 9th Earl Spencer and whether his management of Althorp will be less controversial than his father's**

**A** gilded nest, Lord St John of Fawsley called it in his address at the funeral service. Gilded past all recognition, and denied of its less garish and most precious treasures to pay for the glitter, critics complain.

The 8th Earl Spencer, who was buried among his ancestors last week, has left a more controversial mark than any of them on Althorp, the great house which has been the home of the Spencers for nearly 500 years. His death closes a bitter family quarrel, but the changes made during his ownership will be argued over as long as the house survives.

Exactly how drastic they were, and what the financial implications may be, is still known to few. Even the new Lord Spencer and his advisers may not be in a position to work out immediately what options are open to them after the activities, at once flamboyant and surreptitious, of the last earl and his countess.

For the present, quite naturally, public comment from the family has been minimal. The house will remain closed to the public for mourning until after Easter, but there is every intention of reopening it again afterwards.

Althorp's contents — inherited, bought and set in order by the present earl's grandfather, a notable collector and connoisseur — were so exceptionally fine that all the enclaves of the last 17 years have still left the house rich in paintings and furnishings. Van Dycks, Gainsboroughs, furniture, silver, archives, and solid-gold ice-pails have gone, but other Van Dycks and Gainsboroughs, several Rubenses, and portraits of three generations of Spencers by Reynolds still apparently hang on its walls. *War and Peace*, the finest of all Althorp's Van Dycks, is still in its place.

Some in the saleroom world hint that matters are getting so bad financially that Althorp may yet have to be sold outright. This would be a final irony, when its former master and mistress were so strenuous in their claims that their sales and refurbishments (to the tune of £2 million) were necessary to save a house structurally and financially in precarious straits.

The real state of affairs ought to be far less desperate, given the new earl's evident commitment to the integrity of the house, and the differences between his financial

position and his father's. The house now has an estate worth £50m behind it, put in trust for the present earl by his grandfather, to escape inheritance tax. This was not available to his father. But it may be true that the sales of treasures worth millions were little or no help in securing the house and its remaining collections. In the complex network of tax bargains which tends to accumulate around a great house today, it is quite possible to sell in such a way that tax liabilities can swallow up the gains.

Some of the sales were certainly odd. Instances abound of works of art of the highest quality sitting on the market and being sold for a fraction of the price they would have fetched with more publicity. A single painting by Andrea Sacchi sold to a dealer for £40,000 was promptly sold on to the Metropolitan Museum for £270,000. The device of private treaty sale (enabling objects to be sold to the state, with tax advantages, on terms allowing them to remain in the houses they have been associated with) was mystifyingly ignored several times.

As for the refurbishments, there are two views about that. Lovers of antiques who watched the house change under the hands of Johnny Spencer and his wife Raine speak with anguish of what has been done.

From one perspective, the story of Althorp is a cautionary tale for owners about the dangers of some bad advice, and a warning for legislators who seek to create a framework of protecting great houses without laying prohibitive restrictions on owners. It raises the question of whether an Englishman's home is still his castle, if it happens actually to be a castle.

In itself, there is nothing unusual or shocking about owners of great houses making changes, nor about their selling chattels. Most of us like to leave a personal mark on our homes; some of us find ourselves in financial tight corners where selling the silver candlesticks may be the least of evils. Some of the future over Althorp springs from the vicarious hoarding impulse of those who see country houses as a kind of visionary realm, where change can only be for the worse, and disposals are a kind of theft from a hoard which belongs to us all. They tend not to ask for whom the auctioneer's hammer falls: they are convinced that it falls on their own



The new Earl and Countess Spencer come to an Althorp denuded of many of its great treasures but with an estate worth £50 million which the late earl could not use

heritage. Yet for centuries owners have high-handedly discarded their ancestors' work, to replace it with the fashion of their own time. It is proverbial that the place to look for a house's best pieces of furniture is in the attic, where they will have been consigned in the last refurbishment, or the last but one. Without this process, with its gains and its losses, many of the country's finest schemes of decoration and architectural second thoughts would never have happened.

**N**ot until the last century did owners begin to show much sense of historical perspective in the way they treated their inheritances. In this century historical respectfulness has gained ground steadily, and today's prevailing wisdom favours a level of deference towards the craftsmanship of the past that ancestral squires would have found pusillanimous.

"We value the patina of age today," says Peter Sinclair, the editor of *Historic Houses* magazine. "We have grown used to an atmospheric but really rather faded image of the country house. It gives us a shock to see an old picture-frame newly gilded, even though it looks much more like it would have done when it was new."

Is it conceivable that Raine Spencer's refurbishments may one day be seen as a rare and admirable instance of self-confidence in the timid late 20th century? Even if it is inconceivable, how far did she have a right to transform the house she found, to suit her comfort and express her taste? It is undeniable that much of the hostility she aroused had more to do with

snobbish distaste than aesthetics.

Lord Shelburne, the president of the Historic Houses Association (vulgarily known as the stately-home owners' trade union) strongly affirms that change is natural in a great house. "If you look at the evolution of all these places, nearly every owner has done something to leave his mark. It is healthy and good that everything is not stultified by too many controls. But if owners are free to make changes, sometimes they will do things which are not to everybody's taste."

As landed property has become a less reliable revenue earner, he says, owners have found it harder to make ends meet. Since 1980 agricultural prices have halved in real terms. Grants for repairs from English Heritage have halved in just three years, he claims. "If there is too little income, then either you must generate revenue in new ways, which can be difficult, or sell something from time to time to clear down the debt — or sell the whole damned lot in one go," Lord Shelburne says. "It can be a nightmare to own one of these things. There is a real fear now that the privately-owned heritage may disappear in a few generations."

Lord Shelburne means to ask the next government for two relief measures for his members. One is to relieve repairs to all listed buildings of the burden of VAT, through zero rating. The other is for funds run by independent trustees, into which owners have irrevocably transferred assets for the maintenance of their houses, to be exempted from income tax and capital gains tax.

These reforms might not have seemed much to the point to the 8th

earl and his countess. Their bizarre actions are only comprehensible in the context of the framework bequeathed by the 7th earl. Their protestations about the burden of death duties are puzzling in view of the reported preoccupation of the 7th earl, the present earl's grandfather, with the protection of the family inheritance.

He was well aware of the inheritance laws. These have made provision since the last century for property and items of outstanding value, if open to the public, to pass tax-free from father to son under "conditional exemption". The exemption is "conditional" because if the items are sold at a later stage, the tax has to be paid after all.

The inference must be that the earl and countess chose to forego exemptions to leave their hands free to sell. Whether they gained or lost by this is a secret that may never be known except to the family and the taxman.

Substantial tax liabilities may still be outstanding. Some items were sold at a fraction of their real value, apparently to avoid the publicity of an auction or private treaty sale.

At the same time, revenue-raising efforts at the house were geared up to an intensity which many onlookers found degrading. The house was advertised like a hotel ("Weddings, 21st birthdays, business or private lunches and dinners our speciality..."), and a Japanese property company was given permission to use the name "Royal Spencer" for a chain of golf clubs.

In his concern to minimise inheritance duties, the 7th earl arranged for the bulk of the estate to pass to his grandson, while

leaving Althorp itself to his son. Under the ancient system of inheritance misleadingly known as primogeniture, everything was destined eventually to come to the present earl, the youngest of his father's four children.

The last earl inherited the house, and the responsibilities that went with it, but was unable to make calls on the estate for its upkeep, nor for his other children. He used to speak publicly of his concern to make provision for the two of his three daughters who had not had the luck to marry into royalty.

His actions suggest a bashful and naive attempt to provide for them without resorting to the major sale he knew would have grieved his own father. When questioned last year about his family's disagreements over the sales, he replied in evident distress that his children were ungrateful. If his efforts to provide for them are the key to the

story, it is a sad irony that he blundered into a predicament where he angered them, squandered for a fraction of its value much of the inheritance his father had entrusted to him, and called down a greater deluge of hostile and derisive publicity than any other course of action could have done.

As Lord Shelburne observes, it can be a nightmare to own one of these things.

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### TOMORROW

The election: day of reckoning

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## Driving Mr Fixit well round the S-bend

**O** ne of the consolations of getting older is that one day you look in your address book and find you have acquired a list of specialists (hairdresser, mechanic, hypnotherapist, carpet-layer) whom you can mention in conversation and pass on to your friends. "Try, my dear Nose and Throat man," you say, off-handedly. Or, "My acupuncturist knows an aromatherapist who recommends a plumber who could really help you with that!" Gosh, it makes you feel sophisticated. And at the same time, of course, it helps you fill the rather big address book (with pussy-cats on) that somebody gave you for Christmas.

I now have a builder, a carpenter, a gas man, and a painter and decorator. Most exciting of all, however, is the handsome "24-hour emergency gardener", whose services I unfortunately rarely need. I sometimes think of him in the small hours, though, and picture him trouble-shooting in a dark garden somewhere, fashing daffs to splints in a high wind, looking Lawrentian. Should I call up with a bogus middle-of-the-night problem? "Thank God you're there!" I might say, feigning a verge-of-tears voice. "It's — er, a 24-hour emergency! And here I am, clothed only in these — er, diaphanous jim-jams,

unequal to the struggle with the elements!"

The only glaring hole in my list of blokes is under "window cleaner", because the local chap simply refuses to clean my windows, on the grounds (I think) that I didn't register with him in 1948. "Excuse me," I say periodically, pretending that the idea is quite a new one, and that we have never had the conversation before. "You wouldn't do my windows, would you?" He looks down at me from his position on the ladder, and just says "No", but he packs the word with an impressive degree of hostility and affront. My question seems to offend him; I don't know why. I mean, he is a window-cleaner.

I mention all this because it is a great advantage of the single life to be able to say "There is something wrong with the heating; I think I'll get a man in", without having to negotiate with the boyfriend first. Boyfriends, I find, tend to reply "No, let me take a look, I'm sure it's straightforward," and end up emptying the S-bend onto their shoes at three in the morning. However competent the boyfriend, the sight of him with his head in the gas cupboard and the sound of bang-clink-Oops! is enough to make my blood run cold. "What do you mean, Oops?" I say, dancing about

### SINGLE LIFE

**Lynne Truss on the thrill of calling up a handyman or two**



in panic. "Nothing." "You said Oops!" "No I didn't." "You did." The trouble is that you start to identify with the boyfriend's tussle with his ego, which is getting out of hand. And strangely, no amount of hand-wringing or helpful why-don't-you-call-it-a-day noises make his tussle any easier. "It's just this last hole," he says grimly, after a day of constant drilling, and you peek aghast into a room filled with

brick dust and a wall that has been drilled so many times it resembles pegboard. The helpful suggestion, "Hey, let's forget those silly old shelves, and give the books to the Russians!" fails to lift the gloom.

Which is why I prefer the professional option. This is a simple business arrangement. If the bloke has problems with the job, his ego is his own affair. Recently, a rather lugubrious gas engineer came to remove the old pump from my central heating, and when he said "Oh dear, oh dear, it won't budge an inch," and "Do you know, when you can get one side to come loose, the other side always sticks," I just said "Really?" and carried on watching daytime TV. Afterwards, when he discovered his car had been towed away from outside my house, I didn't identify with his wounded pride. I just drove him to the car pound and told him the fine was usually about 80 quid.

Left to my own resources, I admit I do sometimes "get a man in" when it is not strictly necessary. I once called a heating engineer when the only problem was that I had turned the thermostat the wrong way; similarly I recently called out a bemused Zanussi man merely to clean the filter on my washing machine. A live-in partner

might have stopped me, perhaps, but on the other hand, I might equally have come home to find bits of washing machine all over the floor, and a scribbled note "Don't use water. Have gone to Zanussi spare parts centre in Cornwall." while the culprit filter sat unnoticed, cocooned in soggy fluff.

On acquiring a boyfriend, then, it is important to know that a chap who says enthusiastically "Why don't we knock the two rooms into one?" is not necessarily an expert with a sledgehammer. He has just always fancied the idea of knocking down a wall. A friend of mine was married to a chap possessed of this spirit of enquiry, who carried a Swiss Army penknife at all times, and would offer to make new holes in watch-straps (sometimes when you didn't want one). At dinner parties he was noted for telling stories of fast-thinking chaps with Swiss Army penknives who had saved lives by performing emergency tracheotomies. Understandably, everybody kept quite quiet after this, and chewed very carefully. The slightest choke, and you knew he was likely to leap from his seat and cut your throat. To him, it was the ultimate Do It Yourself.

TOMORROW  
Private Life: John Diamond







# Conductors in search of tickets

London's top orchestras are fighting for supremacy, and Richard Morrison is keeping score

The present London orchestral season has been the most worrying for a decade. Gone are the signs of the brave new adventure promised when Nicholas Snowman first came to the South Bank as artistic director. The recession has forced all orchestras to play for safety. Brahms is back, Britwistle banished.

Even so, there have been dismal box office figures. The BBC Symphony Orchestra's Festival Hall concerts have averaged 18 per cent of capacity so far this season. John Drummond, now departed from the BBC Controller of Music job, could have put the entire audience for most concerts in a village hall.

Meanwhile, the four independent London orchestras go on trying to woo the same punters with the same programmes, played (except for the Barbican-based London Symphony Orchestra) in the same venue: the Festival Hall. But this is all supposed to change in September, when the London Philharmonic begins its five years as the South Bank's resident orchestra.

In theory, the residency will give the LPO and its music director, Franz Welser-Möst, the edge over the Philharmonia (conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli) and the Royal Philharmonic (under Vladimir Ashkenazy). The LPO's contract guarantees that its rehearsals will be in the Festival Hall, and gives it first choice of dates and repertoire.

The idea is that the orchestra will then enjoy such wonderful conditions that it will develop into a world-class ensemble.

So is all set for a golden age at the Festival Hall? The answer is no. All is set for a backstage power struggle that will be bloody even by London orchestral standards. It will be fought on two fronts. First, there is a feeling that the South Bank is trying to soften the implications of the LPO's residency for the other orchestras. In particular the Philharmonic



The South Bank's conductors (left to right): Giuseppe Sinopoli of the Philharmonia, Franz Welser-Möst of the LPO and Vladimir Ashkenazy of the Royal Philharmonic

has been given special treatment for playing "difficult" programmes — or at least, that is how the LPO might see it.

In the coming months the LPO, which once attempted to take over the Philharmonia, will use every mechanism its contract allows to force the Philharmonia away from prime dates and repertoire. The LPO is seen as less of a threat. It has had its grant cut this season, and suffered the resignation of its experienced managing director, Ian Maday.

Second, the question of "who runs the show?" will surely soon assume significance. If the ambitious young Welser-Möst were in charge of any other Philharmonic in the world, there would be no question that he would have *carte blanche* to do whatever

he wanted in his own hall. On the South Bank, however, Snowman's position as artistic director implies a confused command, or perhaps one general too many. Then there are the wishes of Ashkenazy and Sinopoli to be considered.

Why, though, should there not be several orchestras competing for London trade, as there have been for 40 years? Is competition not good for consumers? Why is the LPO management, led by John Willan, so intent on squeezing its rivals?

The answer is that the LPO has looked around the world at the orchestras it most wishes to emulate, and found in each case a close bond between orchestra and hall. Vienna and Musikverein; Berlin and Philharmonie; Amsterdam and Concertgebouw; and now Birmingham and Symphony Hall: these are perfect mar-

riages. Only in London is a kind of loose-living *menage a quatre* offered as a substitute for monogamy.

The point was emphasised a fortnight ago, as the LPO completed its round-the-world tour with two well-received concerts in New York. Here was an opportunity to compare the circumstances of the LPO and the orchestra in whose hall it was playing: the New York Philharmonic.

New York's "John Willan" is Deborah Borda, appointed last year to run the New York Phil. She admits that she is competing primarily against other forms of entertainment, not other orchestras. "We were concerned that the group not coming to our concerts was the 30-to-45-year-olds with 'disposable income' — people who used to be called yuppies. In New York there is intense competition for the 'leisure

dollar', and we found that a lot of these people were wary of spending money on symphony concerts; they were not sure how to behave, how to dress, how to respond to the music."

Borda's solution has been to use her great asset: a hall permanently available to the orchestra. For instance, she has launched "Rush-hour Concerts" of accessible music on weekdays at 6.45, followed by "meet the orchestra" sessions. "We call them youth concerts for adults; they break down barriers between the Philharmonic and these potential audiences."

In this respect, New York music-making is miles ahead of London, as Willan points out. "The fundamental difference is that the New York Phil is competing for the leisure dollar against cinemas, restau-

rants and theatre. In London we too are competing against all these, but also in the Festival Hall against two identical organisations. The way that Deborah can talk about her initiatives is fantastically refreshing. But she doesn't have to worry about doing this Beethoven symphony or booking that conductor before the opposition has the same idea. We do."

"What's more, it would be inconceivable that we could do something as imaginative as a Rush Hour series in the Festival Hall. The South Bank structure is so cumbersome that, with the best will in the world, it would take years to get such a thing organised. In New York the hall does the orchestra's bidding."

Borda has her problems. Every professional orchestra in America is running a deficit: the result of over-ambitious

expansion in the Eighties. And the desperate state of American musical education puts pressure on eminent bodies such as the New York Phil to "do something" about children's musical appreciation, as well as to attract non-white audiences.

So not everything in New York is to be envied. Similarly, it would be wrong to believe that the only problem in London is the relationship between the LPO and the South Bank. If the LPO is to rival Vienna, its playing must improve and its conductor must mature. Nevertheless, Willan believes that the hall is the key. "If I could take one thing from New York it would be the whole relationship between the orchestra's executive team and the space in which it plays. Until we crack that in London we won't be going forward one millimetre."

## ARTS BRIEF

### Healthy appetite

BARELY pausing to lick his lips after polishing off the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the cannibalistic psychiatrist in *Silence of the Lambs*, Anthony Hopkins will now add a starring role in the film version of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, *The Remains of the Day*, to his menu for 1992. The film, which will be adapted by Harold Pinter from the acclaimed novel, is to be directed by Chris Menaul (of *London's Burning*).

When the film was first talked about, it was expected that last year's Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons would star and Mike Nichols would direct. Nichols has now decided to produce the film instead. Shooting begins in the summer, after Hopkins has completed work on *The Innocents*, to be directed by John Schlesinger.

### Postponed

BRITAIN's crowded summer festival schedule has been eased slightly, but in unfortunate circumstances. The Sheffield Chamber Music Festival — the second most famous annual event to take place in the Crucible Theatre — has been cancelled this year. Peter Cropper, leader of the Lindsay String Quartet (the festival's mainstay) has suffered a mild heart attack, and since he was involved in 14 of the 29 events, the whole has now been transferred to May 1993. However, the world premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's Fifth Quartet will go ahead this year, on May 9.

Tippett: his new quartet premieres on May 9

### Last chance...

THE Commonwealth Institute, in Kensington, London W8 (071-603 4535) is co-ordinating its programmes this year under the general heading of "New Worlds", marking the "European New World of 1992" and the anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to America. A show called "History and Identity" has seven painters from Britain's African and Asian communities reflecting on their dual heritage. Some are strongly political, while others are cheerful and unashamedly nostalgic. It continues until Sunday.

## DANCE PREVIEW

### Will we tire of the dance?

Once, Russian ballet was like a bird of paradise, isolated and idiosyncratic, offering tantalising glimpses of beauty and brilliance in rare foreign flutters. When the Bolshoi Ballet first visited Britain in 1956 it caused a sensation; so did the Kirov when it exploded onto Western stages in 1961, leaving Rudolf Nureyev in its wake. The great dancers who fled to the West — Nureyev, Natalia Makarova, Mikhail Baryshnikov — helped to feed the myth: Russian ballet was the best in the world.

But recent years have told a different story. When glasnost opened the floodgates between East and West, all kinds of Russian ballet — good and bad — came pouring out. The Bolshoi and Kirov (now renamed the Maryinsky) took up regular foreign tours; so, too, did a host of lesser companies, also eager to cash in on the hard-currency bonanza abroad. As a result, Russian ballet has become commonplace, and the once rare treasure has been demystified — and in some cases debased — in the process.

In the past few years, Britain has seen the Bolshoi and the Kirov, along with Moscow Classical Ballet, Moscow City Ballet, the Russian State Ballet and something billed, rather vaguely, as Moscow "La Classique" Ballet. Last autumn, no fewer than four such companies were touring this country, with a string of often tacky productions that met with varying degrees of critical approval.

This year the trend continues. Moscow City Ballet, just five months after its 1991 autumn season ended, is back, presenting *The Sleeping Beauty* on a six-week tour of Britain (see review, on the page opposite); the same company is negotiating to return with a new production of *Nutcracker* for Christmas — its third visit in 12 months.

Then, on Monday, the Bolshoi comes back, or at least a scaled-down version of the company with just 30 dancers, for a 14-week, 25-city tour,

One Russian ballet company is already in Britain, and another arrives next week. Debra Craine questions a growing trade



Natalya Bessmertnova: "I think that there are too many Russian companies, but the Bolshoi shouldn't worry"

similar to one the company undertook here in 1990. And now comes news that the full Bolshoi, with 170 dancers, is to make its first visit to Britain since 1989 with an "arena" season next January at the Albert Hall.

Yet despite the glut, the public's appetite for Russian offerings remains enormous. Trevor Mitchell, Moscow City Ballet's British tour manager, says the 70-strong company has had no trouble finding a sell-out audience at every stop on its tour. "We had the most amazing success in Swansea: we had to add two extra performances," he says.

Billingham was sold out: it was the first time they had had a major ballet company there. Inverness sold out the day tickets went on sale; in Carlisle we performed in a large gym which had been converted and still sold out. In Cambridge we

had to put the orchestra in the bar and pipe them through and yet we were sold out. At Wimbledon we were busting at the seams with people.

"We are packing out everywhere we go. We are going to venues that English National Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet don't normally go to so obviously we are going to attract local audiences and local sponsorship."

The "Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet" tour, which opens on Monday with a royal charity gala at London's Dominion, will also take ballet to venues too small to accommodate the larger companies, although instead of full-length works the troupe will perform the second acts of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* along with a selection of popular diversissements.

The aim of this tour is to perform in many cities where we can't show our big produc-

tions for technical reasons," says Natalia Bessmertnova, the veteran ballerina — and wife of Bolshoi artistic director Yuri Grigorovich — who is heading the lineup of Bolshoi "stars". While they are in Israel and South Korea.

The 50-plus Bessmertnova, who is expected to dance every night for the entire 14 weeks of the British tour, is aware of the danger inherent in over-exposure, but shrugs off any suggestion of rivalry from the smaller companies. "I think there are too many Russian companies but I also think our company from the Bolshoi Theatre shouldn't be worried about the competition. Already two of the companies which toured here last year have died naturally, they no longer exist."

When there is too much of something it is not so interesting anymore and surely it's better when artists do come rarely. But soon the very small companies will stop touring, while touring by the big companies will be rare."

Still, the fact remains that Russian companies now need lucrative foreign touring more than ever before: for some of them, like Moscow City Ballet, their survival depends upon it. But there must be a limit to how many versions of *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* the British public will buy.

Perhaps that is why Yuri Grigorovich has devised a novel offering for his five-week Albert Hall season: he is choreographing 13 classical ballets for the 5,000-seat venue (including his own *Spartacus*) to create shortened versions that will give his company the dubious advantage of being able to present three full-length ballets in one evening by compressing each into less than an hour.

● The Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet open at the Dominion Theatre, (071-580 9562) London W1 on Monday. Moscow City Ballet is at the Opera House, Manchester (061-236 9922) this week and at Sadler's Wells (071-273 8916), London EC1 from Monday.

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Imagination is a growth area for children

Children's television today is a largely raucous area of activity which, overheard by adults, resembles a ten-year-old's birthday party held in a jolly factory and attended by several pop groups. Thank the good fairy, then, for the arrival of *The Lowdown*, a documentary series for and about children which began on BBC 1 yesterday afternoon.

This has a markedly refreshing approach. First it sounds as if it has at least heard of the Noise Abatement Society. And although it uses animated images as a backdrop for the children's stories, there is mercifully no sign of the multiple messages so beloved of the BBC's "yoof" department, notably via the use of captions which often come street-portering across the screen.

Part one of *The Lowdown* was called "You've Got A Friend" and dealt with that fascinating prop of many a childhood, the imaginary pal. Happily there were no psychologists to say what it all meant. There were instead children telling us who their friends were and what they did and why they mattered. And there was Alan Ayckbourn to catch a passing adult eye, who talked about professional inspiration from his friend Tim who used to sit beside him at the dinner table.

Imaginary friends appear to be mainly a feminine trait. Most of the children interviewed were girls, unless of course girls are more willing to talk about such matters, boys being notoriously insensitive to all but the gang viewpoint. Some friends demand more than others, and have more demanded of them, a realisation which is good training for adult life. Emma, for instance, is the friend of one little girl and she lives in the bathroom mirror. Emma is only there to be talked to.

Another child has an animal as a friend, but this animal can be all things to all enemies. Sometimes a cat, the

friend will turn into a lion if his inventor is being bullied at school. Not that bullies recognise invisible lions, but at least the owner, as in adult life, has a chance to act out what would have happened to the bully, if only.

Many strands from the tales we teach children are picked up in this fantasy world. There are hints of *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland* and even *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the inspiration for one child's own diary, written to an imaginary friend she calls April "because it's a friendly month".

Some of the structures in these invented worlds are complex. One girl of about 11 has turned an ambition to be a teacher into a three-dimensional structure which consists of a school made of cardboard and cut-out uniforms carefully shaded in colour.

She describes this school in precise terms, as if from a manifesto. It is a boarding school for girls with 200 pupils and 30 teachers, which implies a ratio not even the Liberal Democrats dare promise.

And, as with the other fantasies, it should not be patronised. Much of what these children create is clearly drawn from real experience and, as in the case of the school, acts as a critique of an existing situation. Idealised, certainly, but God forbid we should ever produce children with no sense of the ideal.

Loneliness seems to be much of the inspiration for these touching relationships, sometimes the need of a young child for an older sister: Stacey aged 7 has a friend called Jill, aged 16. And what do Stacey and Jill talk about? Why, "going to the pub", of course.

Ah, childhood: innocence reaching for the perceived trappings of maturity. Not that Stacey will find any shortage of people talking to imaginary friends when she graduates to the saloon bar.

PETER BARNARD



Girl from *The Lowdown*

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The fleeting glamour in the lives of Mafia women is outweighed by the brutality. **Charles Bremner** reports

says she cannot afford to have more children.

When Dr. Borochi suggests that women should try to have intercourse only during infertile times of the month, the women burst into laughter. "Doctor, you don't know our husbands," Shpresa says.

**BRENDA FOWLER**

**DRAGONS** the London shop, started the recession in the 1980s. Now other business is poised for expansion, says managing director. Exclusive customers are selling franchises of hand-painted furniture. A ton Street has in Oslo, Norway family, who company.



WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 1992  
WATCHING  
Porting  
le talk  
his player is a reassuring  
ly mysterious creature

# How the saint became a sinner

Arthur Goldstick on why Winnie Mandela could not live up to the title of 'mama Africa'

Winnie Mandela was a little young to be mother of a nation: just 24 when she married Nelson Mandela in June 1958. He was the African National Congress leader on trial for treason, she a newly-qualified medical social worker at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital. After several more trials, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in jail on June 11, 1964. Winnie Mandela's trial had begun.

Already she was not allowed to leave the Johannesburg district, she had to give up her job, she was not allowed to be on school premises once her children went to school. In the course of the next 20 years she would be repeatedly arrested, charged, convicted and jailed. Even her biographers lost count of the litany of harassment.

In 1977 she was banished to the dusty "location" — a small black township — of an isolated rural town called Brandfort. This alien environment gave her new resolve: she used the interest of the outside world — embassies, churches, anti-apartheid groups — to bring to Brandfort location a crèche, soup kitchens, vegetable gardens, her own child welfare expertise...

In adversity and under duress, Mrs Mandela became a symbol for a nation. Before she was 50, she was being called "mama Africa" — mother of the African people. In exile, Mrs Mandela carried the title with dignity and courage.

In August 1985, her Brandfort home was fire-bombed. She moved back into the cramped Soweto home in which she and her husband lived before he was jailed, but was forcibly removed by the security police. She returned again and again, only to be arrested again and again. She finally won the war of nerves in February 1986, when all charges of breaking her banning orders were dropped.

But she had not emerged unscathed from her years in exile. Precisely because of her defiance, it seemed, she had developed a fiery style that rubbed the salt of bitterness into the wounds of her anger.

In April 1986, she delivered a speech in which she is alleged to have said that the nation would be liberated by matches and necklaces — the gruesome method of killing by which a petrol-soaked tyre is placed around a victim's neck and set alight. She later denied the allegation — she had been quoted out of context, she said.

But history has proven that, if the statement was out of context, it was very much in character. Over the next five years, Mrs Mandela became the bully-boy of the left. She surrounded herself with a gang of toughs known as the Mandela United Football Club. They functioned as her body-



House arrest: Helen Joseph

In adversity and under duress Mrs Mandela became a symbol for a nation, mother of the African people

guards, and occasionally played soccer against any team that would risk the consequences of winning. Their coach, Jerry Richardson, was not in the business of soccer; after the disappearance of club member and teenage activist Stompie Moeketsi Sepele, and the discovery of his body on February 9, 1989, Richardson was tried and found guilty of murder. The evidence delivered during this trial led to the conviction, two years later, of Mrs Mandela.

The sublime, demure woman of the Brandfort days had given way to a shrill, domineering and dangerous presence. The suburban dining rooms, where the liberal socialists hostesses delighted in upstaging each other with their display of politically "infamous" guests, became a no-go area for Mrs Mandela. She was just too dangerous for even the most opportunist of the white elite.

She no longer slotted in so easily among all those other "mama Africas": Helen Joseph, a co-traitor with Nelson Mandela in the 1950s and the first white woman to be placed under house arrest; Albertina Sisulu, the wife of



Dangerous presence: over the past few years Mrs Mandela became the bully-boy of the left

Walter Sisulu, the deputy president of the ANC, and herself charged with high treason in 1985; Ruth Mompati, exiled for 28 years and today a member of the ANC national executive committee; Sister Bernard Ncube, teacher, nun, leader of the now-defunct United Democratic Front, with numerous

arrests and detentions to her "credit"; Gertrude Shope, women's activist exiled for 24 years, now the president of the ANC Women's League; Mamphela Ramphele, who had a son with Steve Biko, the black consciousness leader (born after Biko's death in a police cell), and who is today the vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

Some of these fell into politics by dint of their husband's profiles, and then took up the challenge in their own personal styles; others were always activists, proving that women were as effective as men — often more so — in the struggle against injustice in South Africa.



High treason: Albertina Sisulu

After her conviction a graffiti wall was daubed with the slogan, 'Mugger of the Nation'

They never saw themselves as feminists — and thus never marginalised themselves on the pages of South Africa's political history. Their struggle was as women, but for justice. Nevertheless, the "mama Africas" became role models for women.

But it has been a long time since anyone referred to Winnie Mandela as the mother of the nation. Quite the contrary: after her conviction a popular graffiti wall near Johannesburg's liberal University of the Witwatersrand was daubed with the slogan, "Mugger of the Nation".

The appeal against her conviction is still to be heard, and there has been widespread speculation among those who praised the verdict that justice may lose out in the end: that Mrs Mandela will remain innocent, proven too powerful to be guilty.

In that light, the "domestic squabble" that saw her throw out her co-convicted domestic worker, Xoliswa Falati, proved a godsend to the Winnie-bashers. The *Sunday Times* reported this week that Falati had made numerous allegations against Mrs Mandela: allegations

that, if proved true, will make the kidnappings seem like a picnic.

Falati claims that confronted by a drunken Winnie Mandela brandishing a Makarov pistol, she ran to Nelson Mandela to intervene. He reinstated her in her backyard shack, but also asked her to tell the ANC everything she knew. What she "knew" included a hit-list drawn up by Mrs Mandela and her involvement in various murders. According to *The Sunday Times*, this proved the last straw for the Mandela marriage.

However, speculation in South Africa is that, while Nelson Mandela will keep his distance from his wife — physically and politically — a divorce is out of the question. The symbolic significance of their marriage is not the least of the reasons. It was always held up as a classical romance of the apartheid era. So much so that Hugh Masekela wrote as the chorus to one of his songs the line "I want to see him [Nelson Mandela] walking down the streets of South Africa. I want to see him walking hand in hand with Winnie Mandela". If the Mandela marriage were to end in tatters, a small piece of the dream of democracy would die with it.

To vilify Winnie Mandela is easy — she provides the ammunition herself. It is equally easy to forget that she did once represent so much of what was beautiful and sublime in the struggle against apartheid. The strong, loyal wife, moving heaven and earth to visit her husband in a distant jail, the communal worker ignoring her own plight to bring comfort to the grey matchbox houses of a repressed community; the doting mother, sacrificing all for the education and safety of her children; and mother of the nation, weeping bitter tears for victim after victim of an insane ideology.

"These women were heroines worthy of Tolstoy", wrote James Lelyveld of Winnie Mandela and Ramphele Mamphela in his Pulitzer Prize winning work on South Africa, *Move Your Shadow*.

Winnie Mandela was not any better than any of the other women activists who kept the fires of defiance burning while the male leaders languished in jail.

The difference is, the others survived their years in exile. Winnie Mandela — or at least the Winnie Mandela the world came to know in her three decades as mother of the nation — did not. That Winnie Mandela died somewhere in the late 1980s, arguably from the emotional wounds sustained during exile. While her critics delight in her latest fall, it is a time of mourning for those who loved her.

## No place for a lady member

The election campaign has not only sent the country's legions of politicians out on to the campaign trail, but has also mobilised another dedicated army — the 1,300 Conservative clubs throughout the UK.

At the last general election Conservative clubs supported their party to the tune of £250,000; a similar contribution is expected now. During a campaign the clubs offer accommodation, free meals and use of telephones.

Much of the fund-raising and organisation that goes on in Conservative clubs is due to the help of women. The support of this hidden army is vital, but although women have the vote, not all will have one in their club.

Seventy-five per cent of Conservative clubs are said to offer full or associate membership allowing women use of facilities, although they cannot be on the committee and cannot vote. How many of that 75 per cent offer full voting membership is anyone's guess, as the Association of Conservative Clubs (ACC) does not issue figures for publication. However, out of 50 UK clubs chosen at random, only half offered women full membership.

Margaret Dupont MBE, the secretary of the ACC, described the remaining 25 per cent as "still making up their minds". In the meantime they do not offer women any form of membership at all. Many male members are

Conservative clubs rely on the tireless work of women, but many still refuse them a vote

far from happy with this inequality. One club steward from the East Midlands, who did not wish to be named, said: "We gave our ladies associate membership ten years ago, it saved the club. They still don't have a vote, it's ridiculous. A man can bring a dog into the snooker room, but not a woman."

Many Conservative clubs were formed as all-male establishments before women attained the vote and, as each is run on a private basis, they can

apply membership rules as they see fit. And positive discrimination is not favoured by Conservatives. Miss Dupont says: "The association would be 'delighted' if every club admitted ladies, but it's stupid to force them. You get a better response the way we are doing it, gently, gently."

Last year, uproar ensued when Labour disclosed that its National Executive Committee had approved a plan to ban all-male clubs, should it gain power. And the ACC's gently,



Room at the top: Mrs Thatcher would be admitted

gentle approach is not shared by the 150 Labour clubs affiliated to the party. They must sign a declaration that includes an undertaking not to discriminate on the grounds of race, colour or sex. The remaining 290 unaffiliated clubs can do as they please. There are no figures as to the type of membership offered.

Bernard Dooley, the general secretary of the National Union of Labour and Socialists Clubs, shares Miss Dupont's view. "I would like to see women as full voting members in all our clubs. Unfortunately, unaffiliated clubs can do what they want." Could Margaret Thatcher technically be ineligible for full voting membership of a Conservative club? "Absolutely not," Miss Dupont says. "The situation would not be allowed to occur. She always respected their rules and never, never took umbrage if they told her it was an all-male club."

What does Mrs Thatcher think? In December John Whittingdale, then her political secretary, said on her behalf that "she would like to see Conservative clubs open to both sexes and regrets that some still do not admit women". Should she wish to join her home town Conservative Club of Grantham, no doubt they would make her an honorary member. The club does not offer women full voting membership either.

INGRID HUNT

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## Booming business

DRAGONS of Walton Street, the London nursery furniture shop, started trading during the recession of the early 1980s. Now, when so many other businesses are folding, it is poised for worldwide expansion, says Giles Fisher, its managing director. The once-exclusive company, which has customers around the world, is selling franchises for its range of hand-painted, personified furniture. A Dragons of Walton Street has already opened in Oslo, Norway. The Fisher family, which founded the company, hopes to see one

### AND BRIEFLY

everywhere from Hull to Henden (not to mention New York, Paris, Rome and Tokyo) by the end of the year. They hope to entice people to a business expected to thrive, partly because of the baby boom among older parents with higher disposable incomes. Full franchises are cheap at £10,000. Details from Giles Fisher at Dragons, PO Box 405, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9BG (0273-494908).

**Label laws**  
MICROWAVE oven owners will become more label-conscious when the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Food's voluntary labelling system comes into effect on ovens and food packs this year. The labels are designed to ensure the efficient cooking of prepared ready-made meals. Free leaflets explaining the labels are available from MAFF's Food Sense division (London SE99 7TP, telephone 081-694 8862) and a free helpline is at the Food Safety Advisory Centre on 0800-282 407.

**DIY shiatsu**  
THE latest DIY book of complementary medicine is an *Introductory Guide to Shiatsu* by Chris Jarney, published tomorrow by Thorsons

at £4.99. Devotees of *Forever Green*, ITV's drama series, will have been introduced to the therapeutic Oriental art of shiatsu. The book gives a hands-on guide to massaging for many ailments, suggesting that it could prevent common colds and cure constipation. But it cautions amateurs that "it takes a minimum of three years to become a proficient practitioner with developed diagnostic skills". Also included are details of where to receive tuition, as well as treatments from practitioners registered by the European Shiatsu School, the British School of Shiatsu and Oriental Medicine, and a dozen reputable schools in the UK.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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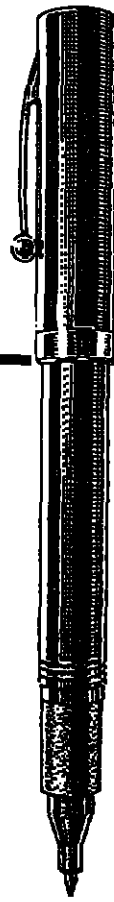
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# Pitted against quarries

At Whitley quarry such views anger people like Mrs Viggiani: "We have been fighting against the industry's too quick, too cheap approach. All that is left now in parts of the east Mendips are great wet holes. It is critically important that we stop this extension."

after references in old books and folk tales were found to claim links between catfish and earthquakes. Some scientists suspect that the fish pick up shifts in weak electrical fields in the Earth.

### Typhoon in Japan: an effect that might have been predictable

This shows that though El Niño may be the biggest event on the global weather scene, there are other important "sideshows". Weather patterns may be more dependent on less well orchestrated sea surface temperature changes in the north and south Atlantic or other long-term fluctuations in the climate.

## BILL BURROUGHS



# Ringling bells in Westminster

Properties close enough to the House of Commons to be served by division bells are now in demand, reports Rachel Kelly

Chris Patten has one. So does Teresa Gorman (halfway up the stairs) and Jonathan Aitken (in the hall). Come tomorrow's election result, there will be about 60 new MPs hoping to become one of the 200-odd MPs who live near enough to the Commons to have an electric 'division bell' in their homes, which signals the need for them to dash to the Commons to vote. About 60 other MPs will need to sell up. It's all change in the Westminster property market.

Estate agents are already reporting interest from prospective MPs about houses (for the Tory hopefuls) and flats (for the Labour ones). "There has been considerable interest shown in the area by a number

of prospective MPs," says Robert Bailey from Strutt & Parker's Westminster office. Mr Bailey is too discreet to name those bumptious candidates so certain of victory that they are already investigating the Westminster property market.

Equally, in anticipation of the new arrivals, lethargic sellers have now begun to put their houses on the market. "Suddenly there has been a lot of activity in the area, with more good quality houses available than for some time past," says Mr Bailey. "In the Lord North Street and Smith Square area, for example, there are five houses for sale, whereas normally there would be just one."

But at least some of this expectant glow is misplaced. Property-wide prospective candidates, and their retiring counterparts, know that the best place to advertise a Westminster house or flat is the inside back cover of *The House*, the Commons's in-house magazine. The ads target the right segment of the market and save on estate agency fees.

Equally, the need to live within the 'division bell square mile', as the area between Vauxhall Bridge Road, the river, Birdcage Walk and

either side of Victoria Street from the station to the Houses of Parliament is known, is no longer essential.

In the past, 'division bell properties' were at a premium because they are situated within an eight-minute walk from the Commons. Now, voting times are largely predetermined and predictable as Commons business is fitted into set times. The bell no longer plays such an important part. The whips are there to make sure MPs know when their vote is needed, and anyway, few votes are close enough to necessitate the presence of all MPs, though this may change if we have a hung parliament.

A bell does have snob appeal, however, ensuring a sense of history and importance to the most mediocre mansion-block flat. "But it doesn't add to the value of property in the area," says Edna Hunter from Hunter Estates which specialises in the area. "After all, plenty of other people who are not MPs want to live there and they are not interested in a bell."

Far from it. The screech of the bell is hardly designed to seduce non-political arrivals to the area. The bell sounds like a fire-alarm, says Teresa Gorman, MP for

Billericay and resident of Lord North Street.

"I'm always in a tizzy as to whether to go upstairs where they put that ridiculous bell halfway up the wall and knock it off with my umbrella to spare everyone the noise, or to grab my coat and charge across the road," she says.

Like many other MPs, Mrs Gorman is wondering whether to swap her bell for a bleeper, thus widening the scope of where she could live. Though in theory you can fix a division bell anywhere, there is not much point in having one outside the immediate vicinity of Westminster. And it's expensive, costing about £400 to install, and £300 to service, plus £4 for the bell set. At least 15 MPs, shadow Chancellor John Smith among them, already live in the Barbican where the long arm of the division bell does not reach, relying on beepers or phone calls instead.

Newcomers to Westminster, however, may wish to savour every Westminster tradition, including the division bell. Knight Frank & Rudley are selling a house in Tufton Street, round the corner from Conservative Central Office, for £395,000. Next door in Smith Square, the victorious and better-heeled might consider number 4, Lord North Street, a Georgian double-fronted corner house which was originally two separate ones, which were joined together before the first world war. It might just do for a budding cabinet minister.



In a tizz: Teresa Gorman at home in Lord North Street

## MARKET MOVES

### Cottage fit for a poet

IT IS rare to find a village with its village shop still intact, but rarer still to find a listed village house nearby for sale for £158,000 and dating from the 14th century (*Rachel Kelly writes*). Add the fact that Chaucer House in the village of Bawdeswell in Norfolk once belonged to Geoffrey Chaucer's uncle, who was the local rector, and that the poet was said to have stayed in the house (a line from the Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales* mentions the village) and this is indeed a "best buy".

The market village of Reepham is about three miles to the east and the north Norfolk coast is 20 miles to the north. London is an hour and 40-minute train journey from Norwich, about a 25-minute drive. There is a reception hall, drawing room and dining room, kitchen, utility room, shower room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.



Poet's corner: Chaucer House

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General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science & Technology, with editorial. Accountancy & Finance. La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial appointments.

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International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities. Motors: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities.

## SATURDAY

WEEKEND TIMES

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- BBC1**
- 6.00 **CeeFax** (29088) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (21635663)  
 9.05 **Election** Call presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. On the eve of the general election John Major, the prime minister, answers viewers and listeners questions. To participate ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (12256011)  
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (4662021) 10.05 **Playdays** (r) (5723663) 10.25 **The Family News** (r) (4672408) 10.35 **Gibberish**, Celebrity word game (7855040)  
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **Holiday** (r) (8844750) 11.30 **People Today**, Magazine series presented by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (8530611)  
 12.20 **Pebble Mill**, Music and art introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (8586311) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (13572885)  
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (51514)  
 1.30 **Neighbours**, (CeeFax) (s) (64156069) 1.50 **Turnabout**, Rob Curling with another round of the word power quiz (64156085)  
 2.15 **Raiding from Aspin** introduced by William Wilson. Live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40 races (s) (262040)  
 3.50 **Henry's Cat**, Animation (r) (8452971) 3.55 **Wildbunch**, The first of a new wildlife series (s) (4158214) 4.10 **Attack of the Killer Tomatoes**, Animated fantasy series (s) (2850305) 4.30 **The Movie Game**, A new film and video quiz (CeeFax) (s) (1394)  
 5.00 **Newsround** (7496592) 5.10 **Little Sir Nicholas**, Episode two of the six-part children's drama serial (r), (CeeFax) (7076446)  
 5.35 **Neighbours** (r), (CeeFax) (s) (556392), Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart, (CeeFax) Weather (427)  
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (779), Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
 7.00 **Wogan**, With Dustin Hoffman and, with a song, the Temptations (s) (6137)  
 7.30 **Tomorrow's World**, Includes a report from India on how scientists, with the help of students from Oxford University, are tackling the problem of overcrowding among elephants and humans. (CeeFax) (s) (663)  
 8.00 **Only Fools and Horses**, Del is looking forward to his old school's reunion and meeting his former classmates, but one of them isn't as friendly as Del had hoped (r), (CeeFax) (460069)  
 8.50 **Points of View** with Anne Robinson (s) (339953)  
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** and Campaign Report with Michael Buerk, (CeeFax) Weather (75771)



Tilting: Hazel Burnett supports Pisa's tower (9.50pm)

- 9.50 **Q.E.D.: Propping Up Pisa**,  
 ● CHOICE: The leaning tower of Pisa has been increasing its tilt for 800 years but now things are getting serious. In the past 50 years the rate of tilt has nearly doubled and sober experts are predicting collapse sooner rather than later if nothing is done. Cynthia Page's entertaining film offers a potted history of the tower, looks at theories of why it moves and recalls that no fewer than 15 commissions have been set up this century with the brief to save it. All have either failed to agree or seen their remedies lost in the labyrinth of Italian bureaucracy. In February the latest deliberations seemed to produce an answer. No one is confident that it will be acted upon. Meanwhile the tower has been closed to the public and Pisa's tourist trade has fallen by a quarter. (CeeFax) (360359)  
 10.20 **Sportsnight** presented by Desmond Lynam. Boxing: Britain's Henry Wharton defends his Commonwealth super-middleweight title against Rod Carr of Australia at Leeds Town Hall; Athletics: a profile of Carl Lewis the legendary American sprinter and long jumper; Golf: a preview of the US Masters which begins tomorrow in Augusta (3920088)  
 11.40 **Spenser For Hire**, Private detective drama series. This week Spenser investigates the death of a man who, a writer claims, did not exist and was only a fictional character in one of her books. Starring Robert Urich (314234)  
 12.20 **am on the Hastings**, Highlights of the eve-of-the-election canvassing (4949151) 12.50 **Weather** (4928977)

- BBC2**
- 6.45 **Open University: Gallium Arsenide** — Pulled From Obscurity (7147175). Ends at 7.10. 8.00 **Breakfast News** (6008089)  
 8.15 **Olga Goes To Hollywood**, A Russian actress tries her luck in Tinseltown (r), (CeeFax) (3974137)  
 9.00 **Film: The Feminine Touch** (1941, b/w). Comedy starring Rosalind Russell and Don Ameche. A professor, author of the definitive book on jealousy, is himself guilty of the deadly sin when he brings his wife to New York where his new boss falls for her. Directed by W.S. Van Dyke II (78219750)  
 10.35 **Film: Brazil** (1994, b/w) starring Julianne Moore and Tito Guizar. Musical romantic comedy about a successful American woman writer and a struggling South American songwriter who becomes a guide to her to make ends meet. Directed by Joseph Santley (1538069)  
 12.00 **The Green Curtain**, How hungry Lithuanians turned to west country farmers for help and advice (r) (54040)  
 12.30 **Flight of the Whodunnit Crane**, The fight to save North America's whooping crane (r) (7394272)  
 1.20 **Johnson and Friends** (r) (24690330) 1.30 **Spider** (r) (s) (15895327)  
 2.00 **News** and weather (2016404) 2.05 **Chronicle: The Great Iron Ship**, A documentary about Brunel's SS Great Britain (r) (4816392)  
 3.00 **News** and weather (2970345) followed by **High Chaparral**, Vintage western series (r) (3032205) 3.30 **News**, regional news and weather (2432137)  
 4.00 **Cracking the Egg** (r) (9440040) 4.50 **Two Points of View**, Work by news photographers from the Netherlands (r) (196205) 5.10 **Early Evening News** with John Suckett, (Oracle) Weather (441021)  
 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, Science fiction adventures. (CeeFax) (960934)



In Egypt: Sankha Guha and Magenta de Vine (6.45pm)

- 6.45 **DEF II: Rough Guide To The World's Journeys** — Update. Magenta de Vine and Sankha Guha visit Egypt (550866)  
 7.30 **Young Musicians of the Year**, Five musicians compete in the brass final (s) (315885)  
 8.10 **Teletext: The Story of Elisabeth Nietzsche**,  
 ● CHOICE: Last week's film about Friedrich Nietzsche's nasty sister chronicled her attempt to set up a radically pure New Germany in the Paraguayan jungle. Tonight we move on to the 20th century and Elisabeth Nietzsche's romance with fascism. Distorting and even forging her brother's writings, she produced a designer ideology that could happily be embraced by Mussolini and Hitler. Amazingly, she was three times nominated for the Nobel prize for literature. Her power base was the Nietzsche family in Weimar, lavishly supported by Hitler but sealed off by the invading Red Army in 1945 and only now beginning to yield its shabby secrets. Archive film shows Elisabeth at 88 presenting Nietzsche's walking stick to Hitler. In her white lace bonnet she looks for all the world like a sweet old lady who would not harm a fly (s) (457595)  
 9.00 **Film: Starburst** (1982) starring Jo Kennedy and Ross O'Donovan. A comic rock opera directed by Gillian Armstrong (3885)  
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman (400606)  
 11.25 **The Late Show** (r) (129494) 11.55 **Weather** (875514)  
 12.00 **Open University: Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity** (740606). Ends at 12.55am

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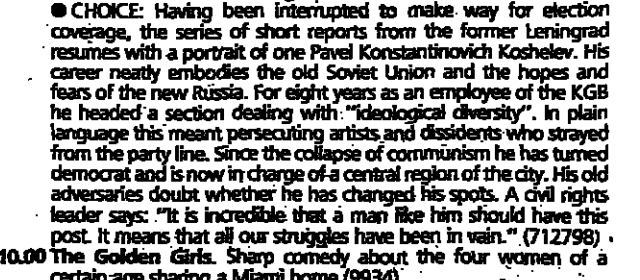
- ITV**
- 6.00 **TV-am** (8107040)  
 9.25 **Lucky Ladders**, Word association game show hosted by Lennie Wright (4747866)  
 9.55 **Thames News** (1101886)  
 10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** Topical discussion chaired by Mike Scott (2844601)  
 10.40 **This Morning**, Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes information on how to make the most of the National Health Service; legal advice; and a layman's guide to electronics (1545359)  
 12.10 **Allsorts**, Children's entertainment (s) (7471040)  
 12.30 **Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler, (Oracle) Weather (8271021) 1.10 **Thames News** (2458972)  
 1.20 **Home and Away**, Australian family drama serial, (Oracle) (46752476) 1.50 **A Country Practice**, Medical drama set in rural Australia (s) (18045840)  
 2.20 **Graham Kerr**, With the help of Vincent Guerthaut, a restaurateur from Phoenix, Arizona, Graham Kerr prepares a scallop and shrimp dish (5917069) 2.50 **Take The High Road**, Soap set in the Highlands (3456011)  
 3.15 **ITN News** headlines (5225412) 3.20 **Thames News** headlines (8475935) 3.25 **The Young Doctors**, Australian medical drama serial (1394595)  
 3.55 **The Dreamtime**, Cartoon fantasy series (r) (s) (5687779) 4.20 **Meganmania**, The first of a new series of music team games from different locations beginning in a hospital (3451705) 4.50 **Johnny Ball Reveals All**, Britain is this week's subject (6125359)  
 5.10 **Early Evening News** with John Suckett, (Oracle) Weather (441021)  
 6.00 **Home and Away** (s) (595)  
 6.30 **Thames News**, (Oracle) (175)  
 7.00 **This Is Your Life**, Michael Aspel ambushes another unsuspecting worthy (s) (1205)  
 7.30 **Coronation Street**, (Oracle) (359)  
 8.00 **Inspector Morse**, Absolute Conviction, Colin Dexter's cultivated detective investigates the death of a convict which leads to him and Sergeant Lewis looking into the background of three businessmen serving a sentence for fraud. Starring John Thaw, Kevin Whately, Diana Quick, Richard Wilson and Sean Bean (2885)  
 10.00 **News** at Ten with Julia Somerville and Carol Barnes, (Oracle) Weather (59595) 10.30 **Thames News** (670601)



No strings attached? Kinnoch, Ashdown and Major (10.40pm)

- 10.40 **Spitting Image Election Special**, An eve-of-poll airing for the political latex puppets (908485)  
 11.10 **Film: Satisfaction** (1988) starring Justine Bateman. Disappointing director about a female rock band playing at a swish club resort, that puts out all the stops when it comes to chicks. Directed by Joan Freeman (216953)  
 12.55 **Visions**, Includes American writer Maya Angelou on the role religion plays in her life (r) (2304460)  
 1.25 **Film: Central Airport** (1933, b/w) starring Richard Barthelmess. Vintage aerial drama about a pilot who considers giving up after surviving a near fatal crash — until he meets a glamorous female parachutist. Directed by William A. Wellman (282462)  
 2.45 **Hollywalkers**, Report in Tinseltown from the British point of view (86170)  
 3.15 **America's Top Ten** presented by Casey Kasem (s) (83083)  
 3.45 **Videofashion**, How the 1980s influenced fashion (4716244)  
 4.10 **Quiz Night**, Inter pub and club competition (11973064)  
 4.40 **Along the Cotswold Way**, Cive Gunnell travels the last lap to Drovers Hill (2651846)  
 5.10 **Fifty Years On** (r/w). Archive news clips (9056606)  
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (98335). Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (8105682)  
 9.25 **The Muppet Show**, Vintage comedy about a ghoulish American family (r) (4745408)  
 9.55 **Road to Avonlea**, Episode one of a 13-part children's drama series (r) (5822953)  
 10.55 **Prophet and Loss**, Animated updated version of the story of Orpheus and Eurydice (8851040)  
 11.00 **Beyond the Barrier**, A portrait of Bath car park attendant Philip Soff who doubles as a "ghostbuster" (r) (7088)  
 11.30 **Get Smart**, Secret agent adventures starring Don Adams (8717)  
 12.00 **Noah's Ark**, A visit to the world's highest national park — the Laica in the Tarapaca region of Chile (r) (56408)  
 12.30 **Business Daily**, Reports and analysis from the world's money markets (25819)  
 1.00 **Sesame Street**, Entertaining pre-school learning series (r) (96514)  
 1.00 **Film: The Road to Glory** (1936, b/w) starring Fredric March. First world war trenches drama about a commander and a young officer who fall for the same nurse. Directed by Howard Hawks (130717)  
 3.55 **The Last Station**, Yugoslav animation (3307822)  
 4.00 **Short Stories: Plane Scared**, A documentary featuring three people attempting a course to try and conquer their fear of flying (r) (708)  
 4.30 **Fifteen to One**, Fast moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s) (972)  
 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, Today's guests are people who had a poor upbringing and were considered "white trash" (4813601)  
 5.55 **Laurel and Hardy**, Cartoon (r) (545214)  
 6.00 **Katie & Allie**, American comedy series starring Jane Curtin and Susan Saint James (137)  
 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**, The guests include Harry Enfield, Roy Greenfield, a former editor of the *Daily Mirror* and, providing the music, Spinal Tap (s) (717)  
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi, (Teletext) Weather (162730)  
 7.50 **Comedian** (394595)  
 8.00 **Brookside**, Soap set in suburban Merseyside, (Teletext) (8595)  
 8.30 **Food File**, Drew Smith investigates whether our food is really as safe as we are told, (Teletext) (s) (7530)  
 9.00 **Dispatches**, Have television viewers really learnt anything from the past four weeks of campaigning? (314137)  
 9.45 **Letters From St. Petersburg**,  
 ● CHOICE: Having been interrupted to make way for election coverage, the series of short reports from the former Leningrad resumes with a portrait of one Pavel Konstantinovich Koshelev. His career nearly embodied the old Soviet Union and the hopes and fears of the new Russia. For eight years as an employee of the KGB he headed a section dealing with "ideological security". In plain language this meant persecuting artists and dissidents who strayed from the party line. Since the collapse of communism he has turned democrat and is now in charge of a central region of the city. His old adversaries doubt whether he has changed his spots. A civil rights leader says: "It is incredible that a man like him should have this post. It means that all our struggles have been in vain." (712759)  
 10.00 **The Golden Girls**, Sharp comedy about the four women of a certain age sharing a Miami home (9934)



Topical satire: the television newshounds on air (11.00pm)

- 11.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey**, Award-winning comedy series set in the offices of a television news station (r) (s) (9069)  
 11.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**, See 6.30 (s) (35750)  
 12.00 **Midnight Special** presented by Vincent Hanna (61354)  
 2.00 **Dick Spanner**, Animated private detective series (3126064). Ends at 2.05

- SATELLITE**
- SKY ONE**
- Via the Astra and Maripoc satellites.  
 6.00am **The 12 O'Clock Show** (7641601) 8.00 **My Peppercorn** (280934) 8.55 **Lamb Chop Play-Along** (571802) 9.30 **The New Leave It to Beaver** (42717) 10.00 **Mouge** (60798)  
 10.30 **The Young Doctors** (1019601) 11.00 **The Young and the Restless** (80040) 12.00 **Barnaby Jones** (25040) 1.00pm **E Street** (111560) 1.30 **Another World** (1019601) 12.20 **Santa Barbara** (54762359) 2.45 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (341446) 3.15 **The Brady Bunch** (13171) 11.00 **Sony Zone** (76205) 12.00 **5.00 Different Strokes** (8205) 3.30 **Beethoven** (2789) 4.00 **Faces of Life** (3311) 6.30 **E Street** (4663) 7.00 **Live at First Sight** (3069) 7.30 **Today's Hidden View** (3175) 8.00 **8000**  
 ● Via the Astra and Maripoc satellites.  
 6.00am **News** (1988) 6.30 **News** (1988) 6.55 **News** (1988) 7.00 **News** (1988) 7.15 **News** (1988) 7.30 **News** (1988) 7.45 **News** (1988) 8.00 **News** (1988) 8.15 **News** (1988) 8.30 **News** (1988) 8.45 **News** (1988) 9.00 **News** (1988) 9.15 **News** (1988) 9.30 **News** (1988) 9.45 **News** (1988) 10.00 **News** (1988) 10.15 **News** (1988) 10.30 **News** (1988) 10.45 **News** (1988) 11.00 **News** (1988) 11.15 **News** (1988) 11.30 **News** (1988) 11.45 **News** (1988) 12.00 **News** (1988) 12.15 **News** (1988) 12.30 **News** (1988) 12.45 **News** (1988) 1.00 **News** (1988) 1.15 **News** (1988) 1.30 **News** (1988) 1.45 **News** (1988) 2.00 **News** (1988) 2.15 **News** (1988) 2.30 **News** (1988) 2.45 **News** (1988) 3.00 **News** (1988) 3.15 **News** (1988) 3.30 **News** (1988) 3.45 **News** (1988) 4.00 **News** (1988) 4.15 **News** (1988) 4.30 **News** (1988) 4.45 **News** (1988) 5.00 **News** (1988) 5.15 **News** (1988) 5.30 **News** (1988) 5.45 **News** 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